SATURDAY
April 22, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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CBI to question J&K ex-Governor Satyapal
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At 74.67%, II PU results hit a record in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At 74.67%, the pass percentage in the II PU examination, was the highest ever, up by 12.79 percentage points from the previous year.

The results were announced here on Friday by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board.

Over 5.2 lakh cleared it

Of the total 7,02,067 students who appeared for the examination, 5,24,209 have cleared it.

Last year, the pass percentage was 61.88%, while in 2020, it was 61.80%, and in 2019, it was 61.73%.

In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government had passed all the students without exams.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 2

NIA team reaches Poonch; combing on for attackers

Militants first hit the fuel tank of the Army vehicle with a grenade, which sparked a major fire resulting in the deaths, say initial reports; militant outfit behind attack not identified yet

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Amid massive searches in the Rajouri-Poonch sector, a team from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday surveyed the spot where five soldiers were killed and another was critically injured in a major militant attack on Thursday.

Officials said the NIA team visited the site, which has been sealed after the attack. Security agencies are investigating the nature of the blast. Initial reports suggested the militants managed to hit the fuel tank with a grenade, which sparked a major fire in the vehicle resulting in the deaths. Charred bodies of the soldiers were found near the vehicle. However, the exact cause of the fire has not been officially established.

Security personnel scouring the site in Poonch district where five Army personnel were killed in a militant attack on Thursday. PTI

'Multiple bullets fired'

Investigators are also looking into the use of rocket-propelled grenades, "which could have given an advantage to the attackers to hit the vehicle from a distance". The security agencies have not formally identified any militant outfit behind the attack. Preliminary investigation confirms the use of both bullets and grenades in the attack.

Security agencies suspect that three or four militants participated in the attack. Shells of 7.62 mm steel-core bullets were recovered from the attack site.

"More than one dozen bullets were fired at the Army vehicle from three sides," officials said. The shells bear Chinese marks, initial reports suggested. Experts said these bullets could "pierce steel plates".

The Army said the vehicle was travelling from Basooni in Balakote sector towards Sangiote in Poonch's Surankote, as part of the country-insurgency patrol. However, it's not clear why the vehicle was on a solitary drive in the area despite heightened militant activities in the region.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Small savings scheme rates still to catch up

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Despite successive hikes in the interest rates on several small savings instruments (SSIs) in the last three quarters, the returns on five such schemes are still significantly lower than what they should have fetched as per the formula adopted for them.

In the October to December 2022 quarter, the Centre raised returns on five of 11 SSIs by a range of 10 to 30 basis points (bps) – the first such hike since January 2019. One basis point is 0.01 percentage point. For January-March 2023, a 20 bps to 110 bps increase was announced on eight schemes.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Keep discipline, Kharge urges Congress leaders

Sandeep Phukan
Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The party is above any individual and no one should be in a hurry in the Congress, party president Mallikarjun Kharge told *The Hindu*, in his first comments on the face-off between Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy, Sachin Pilot. Though he did not explicitly name Mr. Pilot, Mr. Kharge sent a not-so-subtle message when he said leaders should maintain discipline and raise issues at the right fora.

INTERVIEW
» PAGE 11

NEARBY

Bommai aims for a fourth victory

HUBBALLI
Shiggaon Assembly constituency, once a bastion of the Congress, has not been with the party ever since Basavaraj Bommai joined the BJP to become its candidate in 2008. » Page 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 4

EC clears nomination of D.K. Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The nomination papers of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar were among the 3,044 cleared by the Election Commission on Friday, which paves the way for his contest from Kanakapura constituency.

The EC scrutinised the papers of 219 Assembly constituencies across Karnataka, while those of Savadatti-Yellamma, Aurad, Haveri (SC), Raichur, and Shivajinagar are yet to be completed.

Mr. Shivakumar's contest from his home turf had come under the shadow after his brother and MP D.K. Suresh too had filed his papers for the same constituency as a "precautionary measure".

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 6

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Champion's breakfast: how Saweety 'ate her sorrows' to rise stronger

The iron-willed boxer has used setbacks, injury, despair and grief as fuel to conquer the world almost a decade after she first made a mark at the elite level

Y.B. Sarangi

After experiencing nine long years of ups and downs, including a demoralising phase during the pandemic when she did not touch the boxing gloves for months, Saweety Boora has emerged as a wiser person. Thirty-year-old Saweety's unending tryst with hard work has enabled her to turn her 2014 Worlds silver medal (81kg) into gold this year and helped her realise that the problems she faced only made her stronger.

GETTY IMAGES

SAWEETY BOORA

Everyone saw Saweety overcome three doughty opponents to become a World champion. But only a few know that she dealt with three physical challenges – a groin issue, a dodgy ankle and a stomach infection – prior to the World Championships.

"My willpower is very strong. I never let anyone [barring a few] feel that I had a groin issue, which surfaced 20 days prior to the World Championships. Whenever I felt any discomfort, I did some exercises with the help of the physio. Of course, everyone knew about my ankle and was confident that I would recover in time. The stomach infection was also troubling, but I always had a lot of stamina to work hard despite these issues," said Saweety.

> My willpower is very strong. I never let anyone [barring a few] feel that I had a groin issue, which surfaced 20 days prior to the World Championships

These were relatively smaller problems for someone who had weathered bigger odds, having almost quit the sport a few years back.

Saweety was devastated after not finding a place in the Indian squad for two major events. The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) decided not to send a boxer in women's 75kg to the 2018 Asian Games and Saweety could not make the cut for the 2020 Olympic qualifier.

"I was heartbroken and went into depression. For about 10 months I did not touch the boxing gloves. I did not like speaking to anyone at home and stayed aloof. I would shout at others if anyone in my family tried speaking to me," said Saweety, remembering the troubled times.

"My mother and Deepak [Niwas Hooda, the India kabaddi captain who married Saweety in 2022] tried to make me calm. Even though I was not boxing, I went to the gym and did fitness training for long hours. My cousin brother and Deepak supported me and I tried my hand at kabaddi, in which I got selected for the National championships in a span of just three months."

But Saweety missed being a boxer. "I was not happy even after progressing fast in kabaddi. I thought it was not in the Olympics. Since it was a team game, I might pay the price for someone else's mistakes. When I heard about the trials for the Asian Championships, I was eager but I was in a dilemma. At that time, Deepak said, 'You have worked so hard on your fitness. Just because you have not done boxing for some months, you cannot forget it.'

"I just trained for four sessions and gave a strong performance in the trials to get selected. Someone asked me, *'Kya kha ke aayi hai* trials *mein* (What have you eaten for the trials)?' I replied, *'Main gham khake aayi hoon* (I have eaten my sorrow).' I got a bronze medal [in 2021, six years after bagging a silver] in the Asian Championships.

"I was happy getting back to boxing. I was more positive. I thought no matter what I would continue to box and give my best for the country. Rest is in the hands of god."

Saweety grew in confidence to secure the Asian title in 2022 and her maiden World title this March, proving her credentials again after all these years in the sport. Her big-hearted performances against top rivals, including former World champion Lina Wang of China, projected her as an elite Indian boxer in the heavier weight categories.

Hisar-based veteran boxing coach M.S. Dhaka, Saweety's go-to man, feels her innate aggression is her biggest strength.

"She has been an aggressive boxer all through. Since there are not too many girls available for sparring in her weight, Saweety prefers sparring with the boys, plays basketball and kabaddi. After her low phase during Covid, she has bounced back well.

"She lands good punches but relies on her footwork to deny her opponent. If she continues like this, her momentum will help her in future. Since boxers from some top European nations were absent at the World Championships, Saweety needs to prepare herself to face tougher competitors," said Dhaka.

> For about 10 months I did not touch the boxing gloves. I did not like speaking to anyone at home and stayed aloof. I would shout at others if anyone in my family tried speaking to me

Looking ahead, Saweety is keen to compete in the Paris Olympics but her destiny is not in her hands – the 2024 Olympics does not have a women's 81kg category.

And as per the BFI's selection policy, the World champions in the Olympic weight divisions will travel to Hangzhou for the Asian Games, which is an Olympic qualifying event. So, Lovlina Borgohain, the 75kg World title holder, will have the opportunity to book her ticket to Paris.

"I have to follow the selection policy, but a trial would have been better. If I get a chance to compete in the Olympic qualifier, I will give my best. Normally, I find it hard to lose or gain weight. I need to cut down about four kg [to compete in 75kg]," said Saweety.

Other than boxing, Saweety has another side to her life. She is a star on social media. When you mention her popularity on Instagram, she promptly replies, "I am even more popular on Facebook, I have a million followers."

But she does not cut time out of boxing to devote to social media, which, for Saweety, is a platform to inspire people.

"People get influenced by all sorts of posts. I feel posts related to sports can also be popular. It can inspire people to take to sport, remain fit and spend one's energy in a positive way. Even today, some conservative people bother about what you wear and how you dress.

But it's your *karam* (action) that makes all the difference," says Saweety, signing off with the irrepressible positivity that has helped her get past obstacles and evolve as a stronger individual.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Novak Djokovic	35	7,240	16
2	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,770	17
3	Casper Ruud	24	5,255	25
4	Daniil Medvedev	27	5,240	24
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	4,950	21
6	Andrey Rublev	25	4,380	25
7	Holger Rune	19	3,865	26
8	Jannik Sinner	21	3,525	20
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,450	25
10	Taylor Fritz	25	3,245	22
11	Karen Khachanov	26	2,900	23
12	Frances Tiafoe	25	2,870	23
13	Cameron Norrie	27	2,735	23
14	Rafael Nadal	36	2,715	14
15	Hubert Hurkacz	26	2,660	23

Top Indians ▸

Sumit Nagal
Rank 366 ▲ 4 spots

Mukund Sasikumar
Rank 380 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,975	17
2	Aryna Sabalenka	24	6,891	18
3	Jessica Pegula	29	5,735	17
4	Ons Jabeur	28	5,031	16
5	Caroline Garcia	29	4,990	23
6	Coco Gauff	19	4,346	18
7	Elena Rybakina	23	4,305	21
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,505	25
9	Maria Sakkari	27	3,191	23
10	Petra Kvitova	33	3,162	17
11	Belinda Bencic	26	2,870	21
12	Barbora Krejcikova	27	2,443	19
13	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,360	22
14	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,276	24
15	Liudmila Samsonova	24	2,246	21

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 221 ▲ No change

Karman Thandi
Rank 275 ▼ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	31	23	5	3	74	31	43	74
2	Man. City	30	22	4	4	78	28	50	70
3	Man. United	30	18	5	7	46	37	9	59
4	Newcastle	30	15	11	4	48	24	24	56
5	Tottenham	31	16	5	10	57	45	12	53
6	Aston Villa	31	15	5	11	44	40	4	50
7	Brighton	29	14	7	8	54	37	17	49
8	Liverpool	30	13	8	9	56	36	20	47
9	Brentford	31	10	13	8	47	42	5	43
10	Fulham	30	12	6	12	42	41	1	42
11	Chelsea	31	10	9	12	30	33	-3	39
12	Palace	31	9	9	13	31	40	-9	36
13	Wolves	31	9	7	15	26	42	-16	34
14	Bournemouth	31	9	6	16	31	59	-28	33
15	West Ham	30	8	7	15	29	41	-12	31
16	Leeds United	31	7	8	16	40	60	-20	29
17	Everton	31	6	9	16	24	46	-22	27
18	Nott. Forest	31	6	9	16	24	56	-32	27
19	Leicester	31	7	4	20	41	55	-14	25
20	Southampton	31	6	5	20	24	53	-29	23

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	29	23	4	2	53	9	44	73
2	Real Madrid	29	19	5	5	61	24	37	62
3	Atletico Madrid	29	18	6	5	47	21	26	60
4	Real Sociedad	29	15	6	8	37	28	9	51
5	Real Betis	29	14	6	9	37	30	7	48
6	Villarreal	29	14	5	10	38	28	10	47
7	Athletic Bilbao	29	12	7	10	40	29	11	43
8	Rayo Vallecano	29	10	10	9	35	34	1	40
9	Girona	29	10	8	11	44	42	2	38
10	Osasuna	29	10	8	11	25	30	-5	38
11	Real Mallorca	29	10	7	12	26	30	-4	37
12	Celta Vigo	29	9	9	11	36	40	-4	36
13	Sevilla	29	9	8	12	35	44	-9	35
14	Real Valladolid	29	9	5	15	25	48	-23	32
15	Getafe	29	7	10	12	27	36	-9	31
16	Cadiz	29	7	10	12	23	42	-19	31
17	Almeria	29	8	6	15	35	50	-15	30
18	Valencia	29	7	6	16	30	36	-6	27
19	Espanyol	29	6	9	14	35	49	-14	27
20	Elche	29	2	7	20	20	59	-39	13

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	30	24	3	3	66	21	45	75
2	Lazio	30	18	7	5	49	20	29	61
3	Roma	30	17	5	8	42	26	16	56
4	AC Milan	30	15	8	7	49	37	12	53
5	Inter Milan	30	16	3	11	48	34	14	51
6	Atalanta	30	14	7	9	48	35	13	49
7	Juventus *	30	18	5	7	47	25	22	44
8	Bologna	30	12	8	10	39	37	2	44
9	Fiorentina	30	11	9	10	35	33	2	42
10	Sassuolo	30	11	7	12	38	43	-5	40
11	Torino	30	10	9	11	31	36	-5	39
12	Udinese	30	9	12	9	39	39	0	39
13	Monza	30	10	8	12	35	41	-6	38
14	Empoli	30	7	11	12	25	37	-12	32
15	Salernitana	30	6	12	12	34	50	-16	30
16	Lecce	30	6	10	14	26	36	-10	28
17	Spezia	30	5	11	14	25	48	-23	26
18	Verona	30	5	8	17	24	43	-19	23
19	Cremonese	30	3	10	17	27	54	-27	19
20	Sampdoria	30	3	7	20	19	51	-32	16

** 15 points deducted after investigation into club's past transfer dealings*

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	28	17	8	3	78	30	48	59
2	Dortmund	28	18	3	7	62	39	23	57
3	Union Berlin	28	15	7	6	43	31	12	52
4	RB Leipzig	28	15	6	7	53	35	18	51
5	SC Freiburg	28	14	8	6	41	37	4	50
6	Leverkusen	28	13	5	10	51	41	10	44
7	Eint. Frankfurt	28	11	9	8	49	41	8	42
8	Mainz	28	11	9	8	46	39	7	42
9	Wolfsburg	28	10	10	8	46	36	10	40
10	M'gladbach	28	9	9	10	43	45	-2	36
11	Cologne	28	7	11	10	37	46	-9	32
12	Bremen	28	9	5	14	43	54	-11	32
13	Hoffenheim	28	8	5	15	38	47	-9	29
14	FC Augsburg	28	8	5	15	37	53	-16	29
15	Bochum	28	8	3	17	31	61	-30	27
16	Stuttgart	28	5	9	14	35	50	-15	24
17	Schalke	28	5	9	14	26	52	-26	24
18	Hertha Berlin	28	5	7	16	33	55	-22	22

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Marnus Labuschagne	915	937
2	Kane Williamson	883	919
3	Steve Smith	872	947
4	Joe Root	871	923
5	Babar Azam	862	882
6	Travis Head	853	853
7	Usman Khawaja	815	815
8	Daryl Mitchell	792	800
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	783	783
10	Rishabh Pant	766	801

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	R. Ashwin	869	904
2	James Anderson	859	903
3	Pat Cummins	841	914
4	Kagiso Rabada	825	902
5	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
6	Ollie Robinson	785	820
7	Jasprit Bumrah	780	835
8	Nathan Lyon	757	774
9	Ravindra Jadeja	753	899
10	Kyle Jamieson	742	836

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Babar Azam	887	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	777	796
3	Imam-ul-Haq	740	815
4	Shubman Gill	738	738
5	David Warner	726	880
6	Virat Kohli	719	911
7	Quinton de Kock	718	813
7	Rohit Sharma	707	885
9	Steve Smith	702	752
10	Fakhar Zaman	699	779

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Josh Hazlewood	705	733
2	Trent Boult	694	775
3	Mohammed Siraj	691	736
3	Mitchell Starc	686	783
5	Matt Henry	676	691
6	Rashid Khan	659	806
7	Adam Zampa	652	655
8	Shaheen Afridi	641	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712
10	Shakib Al Hasan	636	717

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Suryakumar Yadav	906	910
2	Mohammad Rizwan	798	875
3	Babar Azam	769	896
4	Aiden Markram	748	796
5	Rilee Rossouw	724	724
6	Devon Conway	723	831
7	Muhammad Waseem	716	716
8	Dawid Malan	705	915
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Jos Buttler	670	674

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	816
2	Fazalhaq Farooqi	692	692
3	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
4	Wanindu Hasaranga	686	797
5	Maheesh Theekshana	684	684
5	Adil Rashid	684	746
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Sam Curran	673	688
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	668	745
10	Anrich Nortje	667	695

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Changes in question paper pattern, grace marks formula help boost II PU results in State

This year KSEAB asked 20 more objective questions; among these, 12 were converted into MCQs. This method helped students score well

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The record pass percentage in the II PU results has been attributed to changes in the question paper pattern and the formula of providing grace marks to students.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) changed the II PU question paper pattern this year and asked 20 more objective questions for one mark; among these, 12 questions were converted into Multiple Choice type Questions (MCQs). This method helped the students score well.

The 74.67% pass percentage this year is the highest in the history of II PU exams. Speaking at the press conference to announce the results, R. Ramachandran, Chairperson of the KSEAB, said, "This year, we changed the II PU question paper pattern and introduced Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ). It helped the students. In the coming years, we will bring some more measure to improve the result."

Surabhi, II PU Science topper from RV PU College Jayanagar, rejoices with her parents, Shrihari and Shruthi, after the results were declared in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka has the highest number of higher educational institutions, but State Board students' entry into higher education is less. Every year, around 6 lakh students enrol for II PU exams.

Earlier, the pass percentage did not cross an average of 61% and students and parents alleged that the question papers were tough.

At the same time, students from Central Board institutions was scoring more than 90%. The Central Board educational institutions give importance to objective type and MCQ type questions, which yielded better results. Some neighbouring States also adopted the same formula in their class XII examinations to improve the result.

Therefore, a few months ago, the Higher Education Minister held a meeting with the Minister for the Department of School Education and Literacy and other officials to discuss about how to improve the enrolment in higher educational institutions. Finally, they decided to change the II PU question paper and adopt more objective questions for one-mark along with MCQ.

Earlier, there were only 5 to 10 objective questions in each subject. But, this year, it increased to 20. Among these, 12 questions were converted into MCQ.

Grace marks formula

Earlier, the board had given 5% grace marks for two subjects – one in language and another one in a core subject in the II PU exam.

But the rule was amended this year and it had given 5% grace marks for any two subjects.

A student who obtained 210 out of a total 600 marks in all subjects was eligible to get the grace marks. A total of 10,153 students were benefited by grace marks this time.

Results in numbers

STUDENT TYPE-WISE

Student type	Appeared	Passed	Pass %
Regular	6,07,489	4,79,746	78.97
Repeaters	69,870	33,833	48.42
Private candidates	24,708	10,630	43.02
Total	7,02,067	5,24,209	74.67

COMBINATION-WISE

Combination	Appeared	Passed	Pass %
Arts	2,20,305	1,34,876	61.22
Commerce	2,40,146	1,82,246	75.89
Science	2,41,616	2,07,087	85.71
Total	7,02,067	5,24,209	74.67

GENDER-WISE

	Boys			Girls		
	Appeared	Passed	Pass %	Appeared	Passed	Pass %
2023 March	3,49,901	2,41,607	69.05	3,52,166	2,82,602	80.25
2022 April/May	3,46,557	1,91,380	55.22	3,37,006	2,31,586	68.72

URBAN AND RURAL AREA-WISE

	Urban			Rural		
	Appeared	Passed	Pass %	Appeared	Passed	Pass %
2023 March	5,41,807	4,04,349	74.63	1,60,260	1,19,860	74.79
2022 April/May	5,20,520	3,21,590	61.78	1,63,043	1,01,376	62.18

CLASS (GRADE)-WISE

Class (Grade)	Number of Students
Distinction (Above 85%)	1,09,509
First class (60% to below 85%)	2,47,315
Second class (50% to below 60%)	90,014
Pass class (Below 50%)	77,371
Total	5,24,209

DISTRICT-WISE PASS PERCENTAGE

Top five		Bottom five	
District	Pass %	District	Pass %
Dakshina Kannada	95.33	Chitradurga	69.50
Udupi	95.24	Kalaburagi	69.37
Kodagu	90.55	Gadag	66.91
Uttara Kannada	89.74	Raichur	66.21
Vijayapura	84.69	Yadgir	62.98

COLLEGE TYPE-WISE PASS PERCENTAGE

College type	Appeared	Passed	Pass %
Government PU colleges	2,29,329	1,45,919	63.63
Aided PU colleges	1,15,448	82,229	71.23
Unaided PU colleges	2,95,380	2,47,271	83.71
Corporation PU colleges	3,240	1,816	56.05
Bifurcated PU colleges	58,670	46,974	80.06
Total	7,02,067	5,24,209	74.67

COLLEGE TYPE-WISE - 100% AND 0% PASS PERCENTAGE

College Type	100% Pass	0% Pass
Government PU colleges	42	0
Aided PU colleges	10	5
Unaided PU colleges	264	73
Bifurcated PU colleges	1	0
Total	317	78

S.M. Kaushik tops Science stream, Tabassum Arts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the Arts stream, Tabassum Shaik, a student from NMKRV PU college, Bengaluru, emerged as the topper with 593 for 600 marks, scoring 98.83%.

In the previous years, Indu Independent PU Colleges students had been topping the Arts exams.

Tabassum, daughter of a hardware engineer and a homemaker, intends to pursue Master's degree in Clinical Psychology. "I am very interested in Sociology, Political science, Economics subjects. I am also very curious about psychology. That is why I opted for Arts stream in PU," she said.

"My parents and teachers were very cooperative and I used to study for six to eight hours a day. I used to write down important points in notes. If too much pressure is put on the mind, one tends to forget what's he or she reads. So, I used to wake up at 4 a.m. and study in a peaceful atmosphere. I didn't take any tuition. I used to study hard in college. Thus, good marks were obtained," she said.

S.M. Kaushik, who secured first rank in the II PU Science stream, at Kolar, being greeted by well-wishers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tabassum Shaik, II PU Arts topper from NMKRV PU College for Women, with her parents Abdul Khaum Shaik and Parveen Modi, in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Topper in Arts

When mediapersons asked if the hijab controversy had affected her, she said, "Whatever is the law, we must follow it. I am very ambitious and I didn't want anything to get in the way."

Science stream topper

S.M. Kaushik, a student from Gangothri PU College in Srinivaspura, Kolar and son of the chairman of the same college, topped the science stream.

Kaushik, a cricketer who has played in the under-14 team for the State, scored 596 (99.33%) score in the science course.

He wants to become a computer engineer in the future and is planning to join an elite engineering college for the B. Tech course.

"I studied only for two to three hours a day. Most days, I would just come and revise whatever they taught in college. Only during exams, I used to study for longer," he said.

The friendly environment in college, as well as home, helped him prepare for his exams without any stress. "There was no pressure at all and my parents and teachers have been very supportive. Now I am preparing for Common Entrance Test (CET) and I would like to score good marks in this test also," he added.'

Commerce topper says changed question paper pattern helped save time

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Ananya K.A., topper in the commerce stream of the second pre-university examination, said that the new pattern of the PU exam helped save time in answering the questions.

Ms. Ananya had prepared well for the new pattern that had more number of multiple choice questions compared to the earlier examinations. "I was better prepared," she told *The Hindu*.

Ananya K.A.

Ms. Ananya hails from Kushalnagar in Kodagu district. She is the eldest of two daughters of ex-serviceman K. Ashok and government school teacher G. Nalini. She was a student of Adichunchungiri School in Hassan up to class 10. She joined Alva's Pre-University College, Moodbidri, in Dakshina Kannada district, two years ago under the free education scheme of Alva's Education Foundation for sportspersons.

"I am a volleyball player. But due to an injury, I had to discontinue sports and concentrate on academics this year," she told *The Hindu*.

As she has been staying in a sports hostel since class 8 in Hassan, it was not difficult for her to stay away from her family, in Moodbidri.

She is now preparing for the company secretary entrance examination scheduled on May 1.

Congratulating Ms. Ananya for securing 600/600 marks, M. Mohan Alva, chairman of Alva's Education Foundation, Moodbidri said this is first time that a commerce student has secured 100% marks in the examination. Mr. Alva said the foundation will continue to offer free education to youngsters with a talent for sports, cultural activities or academics.

Farm labourers' son gets second rank in Arts

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Kusha Naik, son of farm labourers, and Daddi Karibasamma and Mutturu Mallamma, daughters of farmers, from Vijayanagara district shared the second position in the arts stream in II PU examination by scoring 592 marks out of 600.

The results were announced on Friday.

Two more students - Priyanka Kulkarni from Lingaraj AC PU College in Belagavi, and Rahul Motilal Rathod from SK PU College at Talikote in Vijayapura district - also scored 592 marks.

Kusha Naik

Kusha Naik is a student of Indu Innovative PU College while Daddi Karibasamma a student of Indu Independent PU College, both in Kottur of Vijayanagara district, and run by the same parent institution. Kusha Naik hails from Talebasapur Tanda in Hosapete taluk. Daddi Karibasamma, a native of Haral village in Kottur taluk of Vijayanagara district, travelled up and down daily from her village, which is 15 km away from the college, to attend classes. She wants to become an English lecturer.

Kusha Naik's parents are chiefly engaged in sugarcane harvesting. They spend six months in makeshift tents in sugarcane fields in different places, like Mandya and even in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Kusha Naik physically-disabled person, who can walk slowly, but cannot run or climb steps. "My parents are poor farm labourers. We are three children and all of us are studying. Despite our poverty, they are working hard to get us educated," Kusha Naik told *The Hindu*. He wants to pursue a career in the KAS or IAS.

Mutturu Mallamma is a student at SUJM PU College at Harapanahalli in Vijayanagara district. Her parents are farmers. She wants to clear KAS exam to become a tahasildar.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner,
Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/136/2022-23 FORM - III Date: 20-04-2023

CORRIGENDUM PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961** the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002 for Development of Formation of Road from Hoodi Railway Station to Kumbena Agrahara via Sadaramangala as per RMP - 2015 width of 18.00 Mtrs.** The previous public notice published vide this office No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/4294/2022-23, Dt: 23.03.2023 is corrected vide this corrigendum due to typographical error in the extent of land. The dimension of the land / plot surrendered **shall be read as 222.96 Sqm. instead of 329.525 Sqm.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Sadaramangala**

Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout / Developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction & No. of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy. No. 1/3, 2/4, Khata No. 534/1, Site No: 26	Vacant			Converted Unauthorised Lahout - 'B' Khatha Site / Plot		222.96 Sqm		Site No: 17	Road	Road	Site No: 24	-	-	-	Vacant	13,590/- Per Sqm	Sri N. Srinivasu, No.P-102, 7th Main, Sector 10, Jeevanbhimanagar, Bengaluru - 560075

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch office	Special Land Acquisition Officer, 1st Floor, Room No.107, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

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Meet Des Buckingham – the man piloting Mumbai City to the top

In a freewheeling chat, the successful 38-year-old head coach talks about the ISL, the quality of young Indian footballers, the country's chances of becoming a contender on the global stage and what he intends to do with his pilot licence

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> What we do and how we work with our players here, there is massive potential for growth, because they are so keen to learn

INTERVIEW

Des Buckingham

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Des Buckingham loves to fly planes. He also loves to help football teams fly high. Buckingham coached New Zealand to the Olympics, was the youngest manager in Australia's A-League and, more recently, navigated Mumbai City's journey to the ISL League Winners Shield in some style. The 38-year-old from England spoke to *The Hindu* in Kozhikode during the Super Cup, in which he fielded an all-Indian squad that went on to tie for first place in its group. Excerpts:

What made you accept Mumbai City's offer? Indian football must have been an unknown quantity for you at that time.
Yes, it was. It was two things [that influenced my decision]. The first one is my connection with the City Football Group. So I was working in Melbourne City, a sister club within the City Football Group network. The other was I could see a lot of similarities between the Indian Super League and the A-League in Australia. This was the ninth season of the ISL.
And the A-League is only 17 years old, so they are relatively new.

> When I look across the league now, after being here two years, players here are more than capable of competing with and challenging their peers on the international stage

If you look from where season one of the ISL was in terms of length of time, amount of games, and where it is now, there has been a massive development and there is so much that comes with that. I see the excitement of Indian football and what I felt I could bring to try and enhance it from the players here, the club here, both in the short term and hopefully the long term.

How do you look at your time at Mumbai City so far?
I think most people would look at the externals and people often judge on trophies and winning. Winning the league [ISL League Winners Shield] this year was nice because it was the first trophy out of Covid. And playing at the AFC Champions League was another big moment. But for me, it has been the journey of 18 months; those moments are cherries on top of the work that has been achieved, not just by me and my coaching staff, but by the whole group of people we have at the club. It is also about how we won the league, the records that we broke – I think we were unbeaten in 18 games and had 11 consecutive wins – and the way we played football, which people said was something that they hadn't seen here before.

From what you have seen of Indian football, where does it stand on the global stage?
I spent six years in New Zealand and three of those with the national teams. And I see a lot of similarities: there are a lot of good players here. On the world stage, players aren't perceived to be as good as they actually are. And we certainly found that with New Zealand, where we were always the underdogs; when you put us on paper compared to others, it wasn't a match-up of any sort. So for me, when I look across the league now, after being here two years, I've seen enough where players here are more than capable of competing with and challenging their peers on the international stage.

You took New Zealand all the way to the Olympics. Do you think India has the potential to do that as well?
I don't see why not. In New Zealand, there was a journey that started maybe 10 years ago and it was called the Whole of Football Plan, which pretty much aligned the game across the country from grassroots to the professional game. I am excited now to see this vision of 2047 that has just been rolled out [by the AIFF]. I think if this roadmap for 2047 can help not just the clubs, but the community as well, I don't think there's any reason why India in the future can't put themselves in a position to do that.

> Winning the league [ISL League Winners Shield] this year was nice... it is also about how we won the league, the records that we broke... and the way we played football, which people said was something that they hadn't seen here before

You have worked quite a lot with young players in different parts of the world. How good do you think the young Indian talent is?
There is a young boy I'm sure you're aware of called Sarpreet Singh, who is of Indian heritage. He was with me in New Zealand, at the Wellington Phoenix first. We took him to the Under-20 World Cup and he was then signed by Bayern Munich. When I look at our team here, from two years ago to now, we've got players like Phurba Lachenpa, Mehtab Singh, Vikram Partap Singh, Lalengmawia Ralte, who was already a very good player before he came to us, and Vignesh Dakshinamurthy. We have many young players who are now making the starting eleven on a very regular basis. I can't speak for other clubs and players, but what we do and how we work with our players here, there is massive potential for growth, because they are so keen to learn.

Would you be interested if you were, at some time in the future, offered the role of coaching the Indian – senior or junior – team?
I don't look too far into the future. Who knows? I certainly didn't expect to be in India maybe two years ago. So it has been a wonderful journey that football can be. It is an exciting one to see where I can go.

Which football managers have you admired over the years?
I have been fortunate to work with lots of good managers, like Chris Wilder, from my time at Oxford, Mickey Lewis, who got me into coaching in the first place, Ernie Merrick, who was the most successful coach in Australia. And then there are others that I look at, like Pep Guardiola.

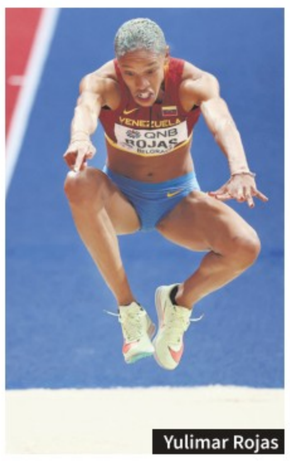
What makes the Premier League special?
It has arguably the world's best players in it. You have got very good clubs with excellent fanbases. The standard across the English football pyramid, from the Premier League even down to League Two now, is high, it's very well organised, very well set up. You will often see even League Two grounds that are of full capacity for most of their games. That drip-feeds all the way down into non-league. And all of these clubs have their own academies. All of them are linked with their own communities. Very often it's more than just football for those clubs.

What have you been doing with your pilot licence?
I haven't been able to do anything with it since the last off-season when I went back to New Zealand and was able to use it. I will be back in New Zealand after the Super Cup. I will certainly be making use of it over there. So I'm very much looking forward to it and hopefully remember how to do it.

GAME THEORY

Best triple jumps in history

This week, we look at the top marks of all time in the 'hop, step and jump'. World record holder Yulimar Rojas dominates the women's list. Jonathan Edwards has two of three best jumps by a male athlete, including the world record.


Yulimar Rojas

TOP TRIPLE JUMPS (WOMEN)

Mark (metres)	Athlete	City	Date
15.74 (indoor)	Yulimar Rojas	Belgrade	20 Mar 2022
15.67	Yulimar Rojas	Tokyo	01 Aug 2021
15.52	Yulimar Rojas	Lausanne	26 Aug 2021
15.50	Inessa Kravets	Gothenburg	10 Aug 1995
15.48	Yulimar Rojas	Zurich	09 Sep 2021
15.47	Yulimar Rojas	Eugene	18 Jul 2022
15.43	Yulimar Rojas	Andujar	22 May 2021
15.43 (indoor)	Yulimar Rojas	Madrid	21 Feb 2020
15.41	Yulimar Rojas	Andujar	06 Sep 2019
15.41 (indoor)	Yulimar Rojas	Madrid	02 Mar 2022
15.39	Francoise Mbango Etone	Beijing	17 Aug 2008

Jonathan Edwards

TOP TRIPLE JUMPS (MEN)

Mark (metres)	Athlete	City	Date
18.29	Jonathan Edwards	Gothenburg	07 Aug 1995
18.21	Christian Taylor	Beijing	27 Aug 2015
18.16	Jonathan Edwards	Gothenburg	07 Aug 1995
18.14	Will Claye	Long Beach	29 Jun 2019
18.11	Christian Taylor	Eugene	27 May 2017
18.09	Kenny Harrison	Atlanta	27 Jul 1996
18.08	Pedro Pichardo	Havana	28 May 2015
18.07 (indoor)	Hugues Fabrice Zango	Aubiere	16 Jan 2021
18.06	Pedro Pichardo	Doha	15 May 2015
18.06	Christian Taylor	Lausanne	09 Jul 2015
18.06	Will Claye	Paris	24 Aug 2019

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Running life's a blur

The Stawell Gift is Australia's oldest and richest foot-race, dating back to 1878 and offering a prize-fund of more than $150,000. It's held over the Easter weekend in western Victoria.

Run on grass, in lanes separated by ropes, over a distance of 120m up a very slight slope, the iconic event attracts men and women of all ages and talents — from Olympic athletes to weekend warriors — because of its handicapping system.

The premise of the handicap system is the creation of a theoretical situation in which all runners cross the finish line at the same time. So, slower athletes start ahead of faster ones: a handicapper works out this starting mark for each runner, from 0 to 10 metres, based on previous performances.

Bella Pasquali, just 16, won the women's race this year, beating Grace O'Dwyer, who had pipped Bella's mother Anna to win the 2015 edition! She ran off a 7.25m handicap.
Another teen, athlete and rugby player Ryan Tarrant, won the men's race off a 3.75m handicap.

Past winners include Olympians and Australian Football League players.

Train services disrupted after goods train derails on Bengaluru-Salem section

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Train services on Bengaluru-Salem section were disrupted after a goods train derailed between Marandahalli and Rayakottai stations around 2 a.m. on Friday. The goods train, loaded with fertilisers, was heading from Dharmapuri towards Bengaluru. Following the derailment, eight trains were diverted and three train services were cancelled.

A railway official said that a gateman noticed smoke, and signalled the loco pilot to stop the train.

The control room was alerted. Out of a total of 42 wagons, 21 were loaded with bags containing fertilizers while the rest were empty. Fertilisers in other wagons had already been unloaded in Salem and Dharmapuri districts on Thursday.

The train was supposed to reach Haveri via Bengaluru.

Six wagons of a goods train derailed between Marandahalli and Rayakottai stations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Track restoration work

A senior official of South Western Railway (SWR) said, "Six wagons derailed. After the incident, a disaster management team from Bengaluru rushed to the spot. Track restoration work is in progress, including unloading of wagons, and cranes have been deployed. The investigation is on to identify the reason for the derailment. No one was injured. Measures being taken to clear the track."

In a press release, the SWR stated that after the restoration work, the section was declared fit for traffic at 7.25 p.m.

More than 200 men unloaded the fertilizer bags, and heavy machines were deployed to clear the track.

After the track was cleared, the first MEMU train passed the section at around 8.30 p.m.

Man held for facilitating illegal stay of 104 foreigners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Investigating a complaint lodged by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), sleuths from the Central Crime Branch arrested an agent who had faked admission to 104 foreign nationals into a city-based college to facilitate their illegal stay in the city. The arrested person has been identified as Sameer Khan.

He had taken a Foreign Students Information System ID on behalf of Savita Maharshi Degree College, Sanjaynagar, and using this he gave letters to FRRO for the arrival and study of 104 foreigners from Yemen, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

He also issued genuine letters authorising their stay in the city to FRRO on official letterhead of the college. However, none of these students have got admitted to the college.

Probe is on to ascertain whether the said college is involved.

Advocate attacked with knife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An advocate alleged that he was hit with a knife, injuring him on his forehead by a woman, against whom he was arguing a case on behalf of his client.

The victim has been identified as Krishna Reddy, who was arguing a cheque bounce case over ₹5 lakh against a salon owner Kanchana Nachappa, on behalf of his client. On Friday, after the hearing of the case, on the premises of the court, in a fit of rage after an argument, she allegedly hit him with a knife, Mr. Reddy alleged.

Gang of burglars arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police busted a gang of three burglars, including a rowdy sheeter and a youth, who posed as a food delivery agent to break into houses without raising suspicion. HSR Layout police have recovered ₹75 lakh worth valuables from them.

The arrested have been identified as Balaji, who posed as a delivery boy, Anil, a rowdy sheeter with Konanakunte police station and Yeshwanth, a known house burglar.

Probing a recent spate of house burglaries in HSR Layout, the police busted the gang and arrested the three. Police said they had cracked at least 17 cases from across the city.

CCB uncovers fund raising racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused, using this modus operandi, accumulated crores of rupees and even bought assets

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) officials on Thursday uncovered an inter-State fund-raising racket and arrested two youths from Andhra Pradesh who had opened a trust and employed 20 women for their call centre to seek donations to help COVID-affected orphans.

The accused, identified as Ajay N. and Venkatachalapathy, who had past experience of working with fund raising, made use of their expertise to set up a trust and operated from Bommanahalli for the last five years. The accused paid salary to the call centre employees ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹12,000 with a target of calling at least 200 people a day to seek funds.

The accused, using this modus operandi, accumulated crores of rupees and even bought houses, sites and expensive vehicles from the donation money, said the police.

The accused soon started operating many such online fund raising firms in the name of Child Care Foundation, Care and Love, Asha Kuteera Foundation and We for Orphans, operating from Bengaluru and Hyderabad.

Based on a tip-off, a team of CCB officials, with the help of a child protection officer, conducted raids at the call centre and office of the accused in Bommanahalli, seized documents and equipment used to commit the fraud and arrested the accused.

The accused would take photos of children in government schools and share them with donors as orphans, said police. The accused have been booked under cheating, forgery and various sections of the Juvenile Justice Act.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 22	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33
RISE 07:31	SET 20:40
SUNDAY, APR. 23	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:33
RISE 08:19	SET 21:37
MONDAY, APR. 24	
RISE 06:03	SET 18:33
RISE 09:10	SET 22:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	35	24
Bengaluru	36	24

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist & haze. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Renting vs buying: which is wiser?

This one significant choice can impact your financial situation, way of life, and personal objectives, says **Amarendra Sahu**

While owning a home is traditionally every Indian's ambition, skyrocketing real estate costs, particularly in metro areas, have caused many people to choose to rent rather than to buy. The decision between renting and buying puts an individual or family in a difficult situation considering the financial strain.

It has been noted that those who can afford a home tend to value home ownership more, with renting serving as a common middle ground. Both options have distinct advantages and downsides. Renting vs. buying has different expenses depending on where you reside and the housing market there. It's not just about ownership when deciding between renting and buying a house, it may also be a lifestyle decision.

Effort needed

However, deciding whether to buy or rent is a significant choice that impacts your financial situation, way of life, and personal objectives. Depending on your lifestyle and financial position, you can select any one of the options. Both require a consistent source of income and may also take some effort to maintain.

Decision-making is simple if you are clear about your needs. For instance, if you can afford it and want to live somewhere for a very long time – say, 10-20 years – having your own home makes sense. You can contrast your rental expenses with EMIs. However, renting is preferable if your job necessitates constant relocation. Renting also enables you to have a low-cost place to live, freeing up your income for investments and wealth accumulation. It's challenging to buy a house for a short time and sell it when you move.

Compared to the pre-pandemic era in 2019, the demand for residential rental homes in India's top seven cities has surged by 10-20% in 2022. We are looking at 21 million households out of a total 70 million if we believe the census statistics that 30% of urban households are renters inside the 31% official urbanisation rates.

According to a Knight Frank analysis, there would be an additional 37 million renters if we considered the additional 32% of unexplained urbanisation based on satellite data at 50% rental. The share of rentals and the demand for the rental business will rise as a result.

The need for rental housing is anticipated to be strong, particularly in the managed housing market as businesses encourage their staff to work from the office to increase productivity. Regardless of the state of the real estate market, rentals typically experience growth and traction.

The most pervasive misconception about renting is that you waste money every month. That is untrue. Renting gives you complete control over your monthly housing expenses

The most pervasive misconception about renting is that you waste money every month. That is untrue. You must remember that having a place to reside always involves some sort of financial outlay. Renting gives you complete control over your monthly housing expenses. Your lease specifies this sum so you can make appropriate plans. In rare situations, if you reside in a large apartment your landlord might also include homeowner association (HOA) dues, storage fees, and utility charges in that sum.

Here are some attractive benefits of choosing your own home:

Flexibility: Flexibility in terms of a variety of factors, including where you want to live, how much rent you want to pay, and how easily you can move across the world without having to worry about fixed costs.

While owning a home may limit your mobility options, if you move, you won't have to worry about finding a new place to live or the expense of your furniture when you return.

Ease of relocation: Before moving, a homeowner must sell their current residence. In some instances, this could take up to a year or longer. However, the majority of renters only sign one-year leases. Most of the time, the tenant can end the lease by giving the landlord notice of at least one month.

No property taxes: Since you don't receive the bill, you don't pay the property taxes. But since your landlord might pass this expense along to you, you still wind up footing the bill.

And if you decide that your landlord is giving you too much information, you may always leave to start over.

Low upfront expenditures: Purchasing a house comes with a number of upfront costs that could strain your finances. In contrast, you might need to pay a security deposit and a few months' worth of rent upfront if you rent a home. Renting a home will therefore be more inexpensive than buying one.

Renting is preferable for people who want to avoid the difficulties related to buying, the costs of upkeep, and property taxes. However, look at the issue from a long-term perspective. Purchase when you are confident that you will stay put and have the necessary savings and income stability.

The writer is Founder & CEO, NestAway Technologies.

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BTM Layout: An area of rapid changes that still battles many old problems

Parts of the constituency are known for restaurants, shopping malls, PG accommodation for students and IT employees. However, it also has slums like Ejipura and NS Palya, and is also known for the city's most dreaded traffic

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Traffic snarls, slums without proper infrastructure, and garbage issues continue to be major issues faced by the residents of BTM Layout Assembly constituency, which is considered the gateway to IT hub in Bengaluru.

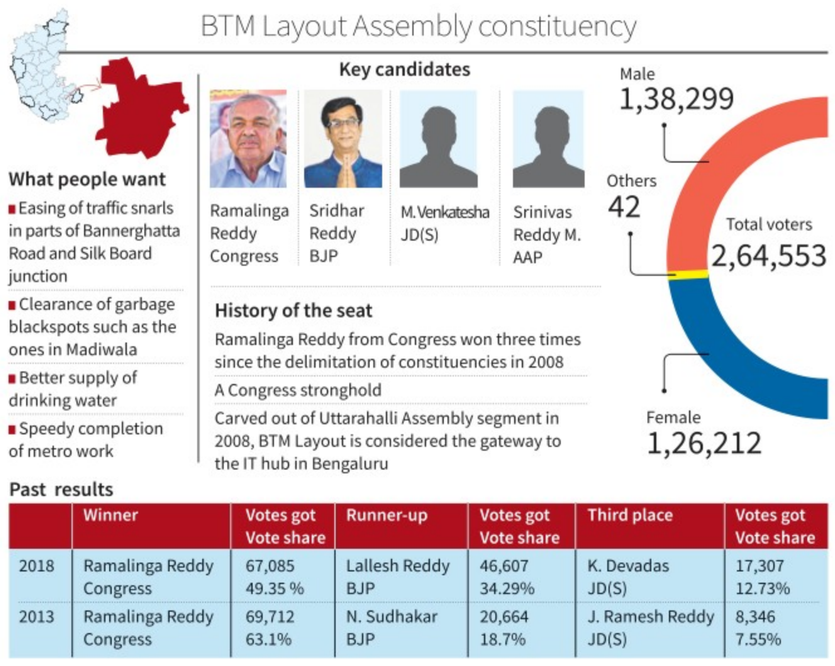
Once mainly a residential area, parts of the constituency have undergone rapid changes due to the IT boom and is also known for restaurants, shopping malls and paying guest accommodation for students and IT employees.

But, the constituency also hosts slums like Ejipura and N.S. Palya and is also known for the city's most dreaded traffic-choked spots like Dairy Circle-Silk Board junction and Bannerghatta road. Metro connectivity is still a dream for residents here.

Rajasekhara Shetty, a member of the BTM Layout Residents Association, said, "The constituency is facing a lot of infrastructure issues, including lack of garbage disposal, and traffic congestion. Those who are in power have neglected the constituency. The metro construction has not yet been completed, and the work has only led to heavy traffic snarls in parts of Bannerghatta Road and Silk Board junction. There are many garbage blackspots near the Madiwala Lake and also on many interior residential roads."

The incumbent MLA is three-time winning Congress MLA Ramalinga Reddy. Mr. Reddy, while claiming that he has been doing the best possible for the constituency, however, agreed it is affected by traffic and promised to find a solution to it. "Most of the roads here are narrow streets, and due to IT companies, traffic has been increasing. I will find a solution to the traffic issues," Mr. Reddy said.

In 2018, Mr. Reddy won the seat by defeating Lallesh Reddy of the BJP by a margin of 20,478 votes. This time too, he is confident of winning.



Past results

	Winner	Votes got Vote share	Runner-up	Votes got Vote share	Third place	Votes got Vote share
2018	Ramalinga Reddy Congress	67,085 49.35 %	Lallesh Reddy BJP	46,607 34.29%	K. Devadas JD(S)	17,307 12.73%
2013	Ramalinga Reddy Congress	69,712 63.1%	N. Sudhakar BJP	20,664 18.7%	J. Ramesh Reddy JD(S)	8,346 7.55%

Rajasekhara Shetty, a member of the BTM Layout Residents Association, said, "The constituency is facing a lot of infrastructure issues, including lack of garbage disposal and traffic congestion."

Document verification process at KPSC office on April 26 and 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) will verify original documents of eligible applicants for the (89+47 HK) posts of Junior Engineer in the Department of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation on April 26 and 27 at its Central office in Bengaluru.

According to an official release, the list of the eligible candidates has been hosted on Karnataka Public Service Commission website http://kpsc.kar.nic.in.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAJITA Sivadasan D/O N Sivadasan residing at Electronic City, Bangalore have changed my name to Sajita Kaushal vide affidavit dated 19th April 2023 at Bangalore

I, KEMPANNA Doddumuddanna, R/at No.412, Satwi Clarinet, Kalkere, Horamavu, Bangalore-560043 have changed my name to Kempanna Doddamuddanna vide Affidavit dated 21.04.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bengaluru.

WE, RENUGA Govindan (Mother) & Thillaikumaran Natarajan (Father), residing at 119 Periya Kaliyamman kovil street, virudhunagar – 626001 Tamilnadu have changed our minor Daughter's name/surname from Jayantika to Jayantika Thillaikumaran, for all future purposes.

I Balakrishna S/o Venkataramana Bhatta, residing at #45 Indira Sadana 3rd Cross Vishweswaraiah Layout, Sidedahalli Main Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560073, have changed my name to Balakrishna Bhat for all purposes in future.

I, ARUN Parameshwar, R/o. No.08, 9th Cross, 1st Main, BHEL Layout, 3rd Phase, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru- 560097, have changed my name from Arun Parameshwaran to Arun Parameshwar, vide affidavit, dated: 21/04/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, K.H. Jagadish, Bangalore.

I, PARINEETA, D/o. Satyajit Dandagi and Poornima Satyajit Dandagi, (Date of Birth: 13/12/2004), R/o. No.811, A-Block, Esteem Classic, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru- 560022, have changed my name from Parineeta to Parineeta Dandagi, vide affidavit, dated: 21/04/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, K.H. Jagadish, Bangalore.

I, POORNIMA Dandagi, W/o. Satyajit Dandagi, R/o. No.811, A-Block, Esteem Classic, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru-560022, have changed my name from Poornima Dandagi to Poornima Satyajit Dandagi, vide affidavit, dated: 21/04/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, K.H. Jagadish, Bangalore.

I, ANISHA D.Balar, R/at Flat - 1604, ETA Garden, Binny Mill Circle, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023 have changed my name to Anisha Balar vide Affidavit dated 21.04.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, RENUGA Govindan (Mother) & Thillaikumaran Natarajan (Father), residing at 119 Periya Kaliyamman Kovil street, Virudhunagar – 626001 Tamilnadu have changed our minor Son's name/surname from Jayabalan to Jayabalan Thillaikumaran, for all future purposes.

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Respondent No.1, 3 and 4 Vide order dated: 29.03.2023
R.F.A. No. 1112/2021

Sri Vinayakumar P.M. ... APPELLANT
(By Sri G.S. Venkat Subbarao, Adv., for appellant)

Smt. Pushpavathi .N & Ors ... **RESPONDENTS -V/s-**

To, **01. Smt. Pushpavathi .N,** W/o M.N. Venkatanarashimaiah, R/o H.No.876, 3rd B Main Road, 2nd Stage, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040. **03. Sri Mahendra Nagachandra .M.V,** S/o M.N. Venkatanarashimaiah, R/o H.No.876, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560040. **04. Sri Shivakumar .M.B,** S/o M.N Byadagi, R/o 2nd Cross, Behind Shubamangala Kalyana Mantapa, Vinobanagara, Shivamogga-577204.

Appeal from the Judgment & Decree dated: 26.08.2021 passed in OS.No. 240/2018 on the file of the II Addl. Senior Civil Judge & JMFC Shivamogga.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on **30/05/2023** incase you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this 06/04/2023

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

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Invites offers from a Multi-National Company interested to operate CMC Main hospital and CMC Ranipet hospital dietary kitchen facilities, providing appropriate food for hospitalized patients and their attendants at their existing hospital facilities located at CMC Vellore, Main Hospital campus Ida Scudder Road, Vellore 632004 and CMC, Ranipet Hospital campus, Kilminnal Ranipet District 632517.

Interested MNCs having a minimum of five years' experience in providing dietary services to patients for 1000 and above bedded hospital may submit their offer to the Office of General Superintendent CMC, Vellore 632004. in a closed envelope along with a detailed proposal and brochures

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INBRIEF

Nadda must apologise to the people of State: Writers

A group of writers have demanded that BJP national president J.P. Nadda must apologise to the people of Karnataka for his recent statement that "Narendra Modi's blessing is needed if development has to be continuous in Karnataka."

A group of writers, including K. Marulasiddappa, S.G. Siddaramaiah, and Purushottam Bilimale, have argued that the people of the State had every right to make their choice, and despite whoever they choose, the Union government must respect their choice and work with the State government in a federal set-up. They have termed the statement a "threat" posed to the people of the State and an attack on democracy and the Constitution.

Amit Shah reviews party's election strategy

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who arrived in the city on Friday evening, chaired a meeting to review the BJP's strategy for the upcoming elections. "Fire fighting" after Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi quit the party to join the Congress, sending out a message of Lingayats being sidelined in the party, was a matter discussed on priority, sources said. While Arun Singh, in charge of party affairs in the State, has already hinted at a Lingayat Chief Minister post elections, the party has decided to take up an onground contact programme with the community, sources said.

Mr. Shah was supposed to hold a roadshow at Devanahalli and Vijayapura on Friday evening, which was cancelled due to heavy rain in the two towns on the city's outskirts. Mr. Shah said he would soon return to Devanahalli to campaign for the party. Mr. Shah will attend a private event on Saturday and return to Delhi by evening.

I-T search at residence of JD(S) candidate

Income Tax (I-T) Department sleuths on Friday searched the residence of JD(S) candidate from Hiriyur M. Raveendrappa. He is a former chief engineer. Party sources claimed that though the search took place, nothing incriminating was found. The party would raise this harassment by the BJP government as a poll issue, they said.

BJP workers told to harness social media for greater reach

BJP national general secretary (Organisation) B.L. Santhosh has urged the party workers to harness social media so as to maximise reach. He was addressing the party workers at a digital conference in Mysuru on Friday. He said the party has to poll 1.5 crore votes if it was to win a majority in the State and it was not the responsibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi or leaders like Amit Shah and Basavaraj Bommai alone. Every party worker has his/her role cut out for it, he added.

With Panchamsalis pacified over quota, Bommai aims for a fourth victory

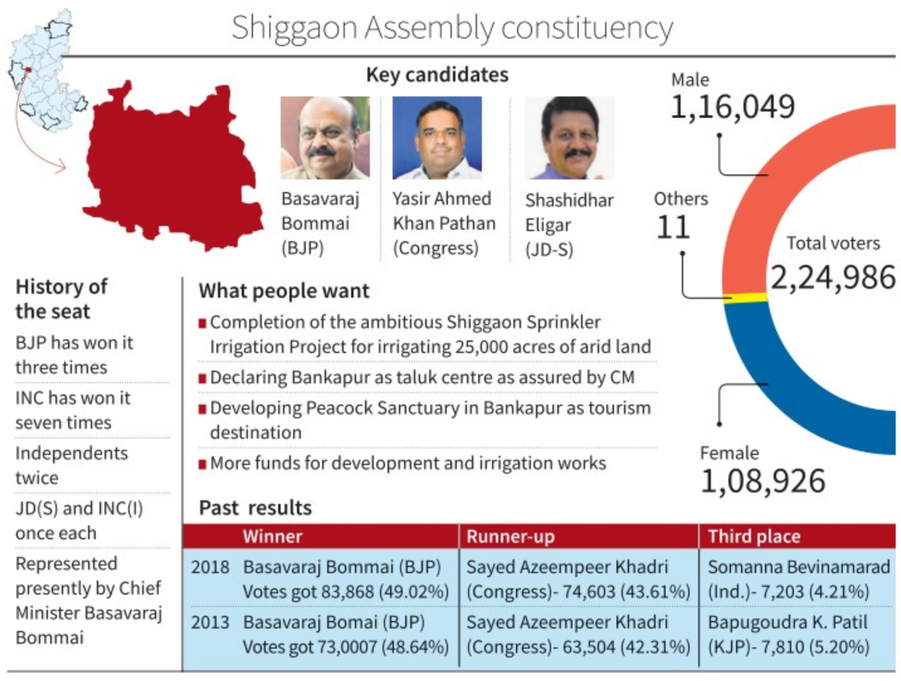
Shiggaon Assembly constituency is dominated by Panchamasali Lingayat and Muslim voters; Congress and AAP have fielded Muslim candidates

KEY CONSTITUENCY

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

In a constituency dominated by Panchamasali Lingayat and Muslim voters, a candidate belonging to Sadu (Sadar) Lingayat community has been able to win three times in a row and is now seeking a fourth term. That is Shiggaon Assembly constituency in Haveri district, the home turf of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

The constituency, once a bastion of the Congress, has not been with the party ever since Mr. Bommai, then a member of the Janata Dal (United), joined the Bharatiya Janata Party to become its candidate in 2008. Since then, there has been no looking back for Mr. Bommai, who first became a Minister and then Chief Minister.



Muslim population

The sizeable Muslim population has resulted in the constituency being represented by Muslim candidates on four occasions and also in Muslim candidates getting a high vote share. That explains the rationale behind the Congress fielding Muslim candidates in most elections so far.

The Congress had fielded Sayed Azeempeer Khadri four times in a row from 2004 when he first lost to Independent candidate Rajashekhar Sindhur. In 2008, 2013, and 2018 elections, Mr. Khadri lost to Mr. Bommai.

This time, instead of Mr. Khadri, the Congress first chose to field Mohammed Yusuf Savanur, president of the Anjuman-E-Islam in Hubballi, only to replace him with Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan. And Mr. Khadri, who is reportedly upset, is likely to remain neutral.

Although the BJP government's decision to remove Muslims from the 2B category of the OBC list may go against the party, Mr. Bommai's personal rapport with Muslim organisations may enable him to sail through. The AAP too has fielded a Muslim candidate.

Panchamasali factor

No doubt, the demand by the Lingayat Panchamasali community for inclusion under the 2A category had become a tricky issue for Mr. Bommai as the community members made his residence their venue of agitation regularly. But the government's decision to carve out the 2D category for all Lingayats, including Panchamasalis, has resulted in the agitation being suspended. However, not all are happy with it.

In fact, the State Congress had earlier mooted the idea of fielding Panchamasali leader Vinay Kulkarni opposite Mr. Bommai, which, however, did not materialise as the former preferred his constituency, Dharwad.

Probably to exploit the Panchamasali factor, the Janata Dal (Secular) has fielded Shashidhar Eligar, who otherwise would have contested as an Independent. Mr. Eligar has made a mark in the constituency because of the social initiatives he undertook and is reportedly banking on them. He is unlikely to raise the Panchamasali issue during the elections, but the caste factor may help him make a dent in the BJP's vote share.

Multiple trips

Probably rattled by the Panchamasali factor, Mr. Bommai has made umpteen trips to his constituency in the last few months prior to initiating and inaugurating various projects. The Chief Minister also made all-out efforts to get the blessings of seers of both Harihara and Kudalasangama peethas. He has also been making emotional speeches to woo the voters.

Nomination papers of DKS among those declared valid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Papers of 3,044 candidates found to be in order in 219 constituencies

The Election Commission on Friday accepted the nomination of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar for the Kanakapura Assembly constituency, clearing the way for a high-profile contest between him and Revenue Minister R. Ashok of the BJP.

His nomination papers were among those of 3,044 candidates which were found to be in order in 219 Assembly constituencies across Karnataka on Friday. The scrutiny of nomination papers in Savadatti-Yellamma, Aurad, Haveri (SC), Raichur, and Shivajinagar are yet to be completed.

Seven-time MLA Mr. Shivakumar had filed his nomination papers on Monday amid a show of strength by his supporters.

On Thursday, as a precautionary measure in case Mr. Shivakumar's nomination was declared invalid, his brother and Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh filed his papers for the same constituency.

The Congress leader is facing multiple investigations by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income Tax (I-T) Department in connection with alleged money laundering and tax evasion cases.

At a press conference, Mr. Shivakumar accused the BJP-led Central government of political vendetta. He explained to the I-T Department how his income had increased over the last five years. In the last 15 years, except for his house, he did not purchase any property. There was pressure on the returning officer to declare his nomination invalid, he alleged.

Mr. Suresh is expected to withdraw the papers before April 24. Mr. Ashok and Mr. Shivakumar belong to the Vokkaliga community, which is estimated to account for more than 50% of the electorate.

According to the note by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, the number of nominations received was 4,989, including 381 from women and one from other gender.

Party-wise break-up

The nomination papers of 219 BJP, 218 Congress, 207 each of the Janata Dal (Secular) and the AAP, 135 BSP, and four CPI(M) candidates have been found to be valid. Nomination papers of 720 candidates of registered unrecognised parties and nominations of 1,334 Independent candidates have also been found to be valid.

HC rejects Vinay Kulkarni's plea to permit him to enter Dharwad district for election campaigning

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vinay Kulkarni

The Congress leader cannot enter the district due to a ban imposed by the court while granting him bail in a murder case

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday rejected the plea of Vinay Kulkarni, a former Minister and Congress candidate for Dharward constituency, to enter Dharwad district for 30 days to campaign for himself and his party in the elections for the State Assembly.

While rejecting the two petitions, Justice K. Natarajan said that reasons for rejection would follow as he could not dictate the entire order in the open court due to paucity of time.

Why did the high command of the petitioner's political party choose him as the party's candidate knowing that he cannot enter Dharwad district due to a ban imposed by the court while granting him bail in a murder case, the court orally asked, when Mr. Kulkarni's advocate said the petitioner's entry to the constituency is vital for campaigning as he is the official candidate of the party. The High Court also orally told the petitioner's counsel that he should have approached the apex court for relaxation of the bail condition.

Mr. Kulkarni is one of the accused persons named in the chargesheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation in the 2016 case of murder of zilla panchayat member Yogeshgouda Goudar and in another case of allegedly threatening the witnesses in the murder case.

While granting him bail in August 2021, in the murder case, the apex court had imposed certain conditions, including barring him from entering Dharwad district till the trial court passed further order imposing necessary conditions for bail. Later, the trial court continued the condition.

Mr. Kulkarni had moved the High Court as the Special Court of Sessions to deal with criminal cases related to MPs/MLAs in Karnataka on April 18, 2023, declined to relax the condition of prohibiting him to enter Dharwad district.

'PM called me a disciplined soldier of BJP, a role model'

Narendra Modi dials Eshwarappa, the OBC face of the BJP, to thank him for announcing his retirement from electoral politics on the suggestion of the party central leadership

INTERVIEW

K.S. Eshwarappa

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP's OBC face K.S. Eshwarappa has been hailed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who personally called him over the phone on Friday to thank him for announcing his retirement from electoral politics on the suggestion of the party high command.

"Mr. Modi described me as a disciplined soldier of the party and a role model to others," said Mr. Eshwarappa, who has decided to campaign actively for the party, unlike many other disappointed ticket aspirants who have rebelled.

"The party has given me everything. I started as an ordinary booth-level worker, and I was made the Deputy Chief Minister. There is no question of thinking twice when the party suggests that I should retire from electoral politics," Mr. Eshwarappa told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Excerpts from the interview:

You are one of the prominent leaders of the BJP. But the party denied you the ticket and asked you to retire from electoral politics. Your son too has been denied the ticket. What do you feel about it?

Whenever our party makes a decision, it considers all angles. It's not about just myself. Whatever decision the party makes will be a good decision. It is my duty as a worker to abide by it.

A video grab showing BJP MLA K.S. Eshwarappa talking to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the phone on Friday. PTI

Did you expect that you may have to retire from electoral politics?

I had some kind of an indication in this regard, owing to speculation for some time that seniors may be asked to retire. But I was not sure when exactly.

At the same time, B.Y. Vijayendra, son of party veteran B.S. Yediyurappa, has been given the ticket to contest this time. What is your view in this regard?

I don't know. There could have been some political compulsions in that seat from where he is contesting.

What was your reaction when the party asked you to retire from electoral politics?

I immediately told them that I would oblige, and sent a letter announcing my retirement.

What was the reaction of the party high command when a leader like you agreed in no time to retire from electoral politics?

> I started as an ordinary booth-level worker, and I was made the Deputy Chief Minister. There is no question of thinking twice when the party suggests that I should retire from electoral politics.
>
> **K.S. ESHWARAPPA,** BJP MLA

Our Prime Minister personally called me over the phone. He thanked me for obliging. He described me as a disciplined solider of the party and a role model to others. The party central leadership is happy that I not only agreed to retire from electoral politics, but also convinced the emotional supporters who had gathered in front of my house about our duty to abide by the party's instructions. I think they are also happy that I went on to write an open letter to senior leader Jagadish Shettar to reconsider his decision to join the Congress.

But several other disappointed ticket aspirants have raised a banner of revolt while Mr. Shettar and Laxman Savadi have even joined the Congress. What is your take on this?

Mr. Savadi is not originally from the BJP cadre, as he came from the Janata Parivar. But I am very surprised by the reaction of Mr. Shettar, as he comes from a family that has deep roots in the Jan Sangh. The party has given him everything, right from the post of president of the State unit to Minister and Chief Minister.

Will you campaign for the party in the Assembly elections?

Yes. I not only accompanied the party's Shivamogga candidate while filing nominations, but also accompanied the party's nominee when he filed his nomination papers in Hubballi where Mr. Shettar will be contesting on the Congress ticket. In fact, party leaders in Hubballi were keen that I be there.

Are you planning to meet BJP's central leaders in Delhi?

No. There is no need to go to Delhi, as I did not announce retirement from poll politics out of any expectation. But if they want to meet me, I will go.

TTD officials unearth darshan ticket racket involving MLC Sabjee

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The Andhra Pradesh Police on Friday registered FIR against East-West Godavari Teachers' constituency MLC Shaik Sabjee, on charges of facilitating darshan of devotees at the Tirumala temple after accepting money from them.

Earlier, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD's) vigilance and security officials had opened an investigation into frequent visits of Mr. Sabjee to the hilltop shrine.

Officials allege that a pilgrim party had deposited ₹1.05 lakh into Mr. Sabjee's driver's bank account, to facilitate their darshan.

Further inquiries also revealed that the MLC allegedly escorted these devotees with fake ID cards for the darshan and in a span of one month, Mr. Sabjee had issued 19 recommendation letters for darshan. Majority of the recommendation letters were given to the pilgrims hailing from other States.

The State government too had issued instructions to the TTD officials to initiate strict action against black marketeers. The TTD has allegedly identified 16 political representatives resorting to such activities.

Newborn baby allegedly sold for ₹3 lakh in Kerala hospital

The three-day-old baby was born at Government Women and Child Hospital at Thycaud in Thiruvananthapuram; Childline workers got information about the alleged sale earlier this week

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A three-day-old baby, born at the Government Women and Child Hospital at Thycaud in Thiruvananthapuram, was allegedly sold to another woman for ₹3 lakh. After the police located the baby with a woman in Karamana, the Child Welfare Committee took over the baby and transferred to its facility in Thycaud.

Veena George

Health Minister Veena George has directed the Health Department director to conduct an enquiry into the alleged sale of the newborn baby.

She also directed the Director of the Women and Child Development Department to provide adequate protection for the baby.

According to District Child Welfare Committee chairperson A. Shaniba Beegum, Childline workers had got information about the alleged sale earlier this week, following which the Thampanoor police conducted enquiries.

"Though the baby was located with the woman in Karamana, she had initially claimed that she had given birth to the baby. When the officials said checks would be conducted using a doctor, she claimed that her friend had given the baby. On further interrogation, she admitted that she bought the child from the Thycaud hospital," Ms. Beegum told *The Hindu*.

However, the identity of the parents who sold the baby is yet to be ascertained. The baby was born on April 7 and was sold to the Karamana-based woman on April 10.

The Thampanoor police are carrying out further investigations into the alleged sale.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	36.7	25.3	Kozhikode	—	37.4	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	38.6	25.7	Kurnool	—	41.0	27.9
Aizawl	4	29.4	16.0	Lucknow	—	34.4	25.1
Allahabad	—	40.7	26.8	Madurai	—	39.8	27.0
Bengaluru	—	35.2	23.4	Mangaluru	—	34.8	25.8
Bhopal	0.2	39.0	22.4	Mumbai	—	32.5	24.6
Bhubaneswar	1.2	36.1	26.7	Mysuru	—	36.6	24.0
Chandigarh	0.1	33.4	18.6	New Delhi	0.5	36.7	21.6
Chennai	—	38.8	28.0	Patna	—	39.3	27.7
Coimbatore	—	37.1	25.2	Port Blair	—	35.9	27.2
Dehradun	6	32.0	16.2	Puducherry	—	36.4	28.0
Gangtok	14	20.9	14.0	Pune	—	38.0	21.1
Goa	—	35.0	26.2	Raipur	1	40.0	23.0
Guwahati	27	31.1	20.6	Ranchi	—	34.1	26.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	22.0	Shillong	—	27.2	18.4
Hyderabad	—	35.3	25.1	Shimla	24	19.4	4.7
Imphal	2	26.3	18.7	Srinagar	0.7	16.6	6.2
Jaipur	—	36.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	6	34.1	26.2
Kochi	—	32.2	28.2	Tiruchi	—	40.1	28.0
Kohima	—	29.0	18.5	Vijayawada	—	37.6	26.6
Kolkata	—	38.5	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	6	38	—	145	131	
Bengaluru	7	42	36	113	130	
Chennai	3	58	100	81	74	
Delhi	11	147	38	53	115	
Hyderabad	8	29	38	124	136	
Kolkata	8	11	32	104	113	
Lucknow	10	56	27	290	188	
Mumbai	32	24	12	26	132	
Pune	—	43	71	59	61	
Visakhapatnam	12	39	25	98	116	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 305 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002

No:BBMP/Comm/PSR(G)/139/2022-23 **FORM III** Date: 20.04.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961 the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by The Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Bengaluru -560 002 for **Widening of Varthuru Road up to Sarjapura Road Via Gunjur Phase-I of Varthur Kodi to Varthur Bridge SH-35 as per RMP-2015 Width 45:00 Mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within 30 (thirty) days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and landowners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Ramagondanahalli**

Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land		Nature of Land			Dimension of the Land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the Land / Plot				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, Factory, Apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guide -lines) value of the land Per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for Which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted undeveloped	Approved Layout / developed Land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction & No.of Floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No: 1104 Sy No.24/2 M.No.719	Vacant		Converted BBMP 'A' Khatha Land			922.32 Sqm		Sy No:24/1	Sy No:24/3	Remaining Portion of Sy No: 24/2	Road	Nil	Nil	Nil		49,000/-	M/s. Prestige Estates Projects Ltd., Prestige Falcon Tower No.19, Brunton Road, Bangalore-560025.

Objections and suggestions may be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Special Land Acquisition Officer,1st Floor, Room No.107, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru - 560 002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

LOST

Smt. Sunandamma W/o Late. Seenappa. her house document No. 247/69-70, 425/69-70, said document misplaced dated on 05-04-2023 for this compliant lodged to the concerned Police station Lost Report No. 0540488/2023, in case of this document trace out to any one person please contact to following mobile Nos. No. 9964555772,9346437428

PUBLIC NOTICE

The publice, by this NOTICE are hereby informed that my client Sri R.Vadi Raj, son of late R. Dheerendrachar and only brother of late R. Krishnamurthy is the Sole and only Successor to the estate of his brother Late R. Krishnamurthy in respect of the residential Apartment bearing No.303, in the third floor of "BALAI RESIDENCY measuring super built up area of 745 Sq.Ft., (which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder) purchased by late R. Krishnamuthy, regd. as Doc. No.9603-09-10 in Book-L BNG(U)-BSK- Sr.Sub-Registrar, Banashankari, Bengaluru and that the said Balaji Residency was constructed on a vacant site Nos. 17 & 18, Uttarahalli Grama Panchayat Khata No.645 & 650, of Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalor South Taluk, measuring East to West :63.00 Ft., & North to South: 40,00 ft. and that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances. If any body tries or attempts to create a charge or alienate / convey to any third party for consideration, by handing over the Original Sale Deed, prosective buyer will be doing so at his own risks and costs, since my client has obtained the Certified Copies and would take all necessary steps, to succeed to the Schedule Property. My client hereby declares that who ever is holding the Original Title Deeds in respect of schedule property is illegal and he is neither proper nor a necessary party touching upon the rights, interests and title over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

ALL THAT PART AND PARCEL OF APARTMENT NO.303, 3 FLOOR, BALAJI RESIDENCY, constructed on site No. 17 & 18, Uttarahalli Grama Panchayat Khata No.645 & 650, of Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalor South Taluk, measuring East to West :63.00 Ft., & North to South: 40.00 ft., and bounded on: East by Flat No.302, West by: Private Road, North by Road South by Private Property.

T.RUKMANGADACHAR,
ADVOCATE, 113/3, GOVINDAPPA ROAD, BASAVANGUDI BANGALORE-560 004:
Mobile No.9620255406:

'Efforts on to bring back body of A.P. man from U.S.'

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKOLLU

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Taneti Vanita has directed the officials concerned to ensure that the body of Saiesh Veera, 24, who was shot dead by an unknown assailant in the U.S., is brought back to the State. Veera is a native of Palakollu.

The deceased was a postgraduate student of a local university in Columbus City. The shootout had taken place at a gas filling station on Thursday night. "Efforts are under way to bring back the body," Ms. Vanita said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Agreement of Sale dated 06.08.2014 registered as document No. 1119/2014-15 of Book-I & CD.No.SHRD50 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Sarjapura Bangalore, & Sale Deed dated 20.11.2002 registered as document No.10720/2002-03 of Book I & CD.No.90 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore, Page No.4 in respect of Site No.54, Situated at **Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore** has been lost.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Agreement of Sale and Sale Deed Page No.4. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client **Mr. SATYA KARTHIK KUMAR,** has negotiated and is in process of purchasing the **Site No. 174,** Katha No.BD006S220010240, carved out of residentially **converted Survey Number 94,** situated at Baiyappanahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, in the layout known as **"ROSE VISTA",** measuring **East by 9.43 mtrs, West by 9.14 mtrs, North by 14.14 mtrs, South by 16.57 mtrs, totally measuring 140.34 sq.mtrs (1510 Sq.ft),** which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder. Any person/s entities having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner objecting the sale of the schedule property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this public notice, after which our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the owner and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant **Site No.174,** bearing **Katha No. BD006S220010240,** carved out of residentially converted Survey No.94, situated at **Baiyappanahalli Village,** Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, in the Layout known as **"ROSE VISTA",** measuring East by 9.43 mtrs, West by 9.14 mtrs, North by 14.14 mtrs, and South by 16.57 mtrs, totally measuring 140.34 sq.mtrs **(1510 Sq.ft.)** with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded as:

East by : 3M Path way & Park,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.175,
South by : Site No.173.

BEENA.P.K, Advocate,
NEXTLEGAL SERVICES,
270/A, 4th Main 5th 'C' Cross
HAL 3rd Stage, Indiranagar
Bangalore-560075.
Mobile No. 91+9972092077

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **MR. BASAVARAJ ANGADI** son of mr.mahalingappa and **MRS. SURATI MUGALI** Wife of mr. Basavarajangadi, both are residing at: # K032, 3rd FLOOR, 'K' TOWER, DLF MAIDEN HEIGHTS. Jigani, Bangalore-560105. My clients Intend to purchase Schedule 'B' Property, if anybody is having any legitimate claim over the schedule property is hereby requested to notify the same to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication, failing which my client will proceed with the sale transaction with CONCORDE MILLENNIUM LLP (Formerly known as "Concorde Millennium Private Limited"), a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 (LLP Act), having its Registered Office at: Concorde, No. 40/1, Vittal Mallya Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru–560001, represented by one of its Authorized Signatory Mr. B.S. Nesara / Mr. R.G. Sunil / Mr. R.G. Anil / Mr. Mohammed Fazlur Rahman Delv.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable residential converted land bearing Survey Nos. Sy.No. 12/2 measuring 1 acre 30 guntas, 12/1 measuring 3 acres 39 guntas, Sy.No. 10/3 measuring 22 ¾ guntas, Sy.No. 11/2B measuring 1 acre 2 guntas, Sy.No.10/2 measuring 22 ¾ guntas, Sy.No.17 measuring 2 acres 7 guntas, Sy.No. 10/1 measuring 1 acre 5 ½ guntas and Sy.No. 31/1 measuring 1 acre 10 guntas, totally measuring 12 Acres 19 Guntas and Sy.No.16/2 measuring 15 guntas, situated at **Ramsagara Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk,** together with all rights, privileges appurtenant thereto.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

(SCHEDULE OF THE PLOT FORMED IN SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY)

All that piece and parcel of Plot bearing No.2, carved out of Sy.No.10/3, in Schedule 'A' Property, as per the plan sanctioned by the Anekal Planning Authority vide LAO: 21:2018-19, Dated 18/12/2020, in the layout known as "CONCORDE ABODE 99", measuring East to West towards Northern side 12.95 Meters + East to West towards Southern side 12.56 Meters and North to South towards Eastern side 10.01 Meters + North to South towards Western side 10.00 Meters and totally measuring **127.54 Square Meters (1372.84 Square Feet),** situated at **Ramsagara Village Attibele Hobli Anekal Taluk** and bounded as follows:-

East by : Pathway & Park 5
West by : Road
North by : Plot No.1
South by : Plot No.3

Venugopal.S.K. ADVOCATE
Flat No.1, Shree Krishna Residency Apartments, Langford Cross Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560025 Mob: 9686889300

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annexe-1 Building,
N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002

FORM III

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/38/2022-23 Date:20.04.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Widening of Varthuru Road up to Sarjapura Road via Gunjur Phase-I of Varthur Kodi to Varthur Bridge SH-35 as per RMP-2015 width 45.00 Mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norm s) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, 0/0 the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of Land / Building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued

Name of the District:**Bengaluru Urban,** Name of the Taluk : **Bengaluru East,** Name of the Village: **Ramagondanahalli**

Sy. No. Khatha No.	Type of land		Nature of land			Dimension of the land/ Plot & Extent in Sq.M		Boundaries of the land				Building Details			Present Activity on Land/Building (Specify Specific activity such as Shop, Office, factory, Apartment, Individual House etc.)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.M (in Rs.)	Name and address of the owner of the plot/Land for which DRC is to be issued
	Vacant	Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sq.M	Type of Construction and No,. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
Sy No. 1090, Sy. No. 26/3, M. No. 705	Vacant		Converted A Khatha Land			2300.00 Sqm		Sy.No. 26/2	Sy.No. 25	Remaining Portion of Sy.No. 26/3	Road	Nil	Nil	Nil		49000/ - per Sqm	M/s Prestige Estates Projects Ltd., Falcon Tower, No. 19, Brunton Road, Bangalore -560 025.

Objections and suggestions may be submitted at the address specified below :

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub Divisional / Branch Office	Special Land Acquisition Officer, 1st Floor, Room No. 107, Annex Building - 3 , N. R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore - 560 002.

Sd/-
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

SANKARA NETHRALAYA
Deeply Mourns

the passing of
DR. IAN SUNDARARAJ
On 21st April 2023.

- Chief Anaesthetist (1983 - 1992)
- Advisor, Anaesthesia Dept. (1993 - 2017)
- An iconic figure at Sankara Nethralaya for over three decades
- A man who personified dedication, sincerity and humility

SANKARA NETHRALAYA
No. 41 (old 18), College Road, Chennai - 600 006

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of

Mrs. RUBY SUNDAR SINGH
(13.10.1923 - 22.04.2020)
Founder of Singh's Higher Primary School, Fort, Ballari.

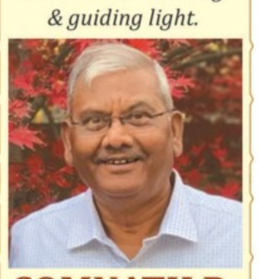
" The memory of the just is blessed " (Prov. 10:7)

" Your unparalleled zest for life inspires all who have known you "

Fondly remembered by,
***Management, Staff & Students** of Singh's High School, Fort, Ballari. Mob. : 9448194364.*

DEATH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
You were our shining & guiding light.



SOMNATH R. SINDGI
Passed away peacefully on 16th April 2023 in Dharwad.

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our father Mr. Somnath R. Sindgi on 16th April 2023. Tithi puja will be held in his memory on 24th April 2023, Monday, at his residence - 'Bhagirathi', 2nd Main, Bharati Nagar, Dharwad. May his beautiful and kind soul be blessed with eternal peace.

In Grief:
Saroja Sindgi (wife), Children & Family.
Email : kshitijss1@gmail.com

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SMT.REKHA RAJESH BABU** D/o late B.T.Chinnappa, residing at: No.523, 3rd 'B' Main, OMBR Layout, Bhuvanagiri, Banaswadi, Bangalore – 560 043.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.46 (Old No.45/46), PID 50-26-46, measuring East to West 53ft and North to South 37ft, with a building thereon, situated at M.M.V.Road off Govindappa Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : M.M.V. Road
West by : Property belongs to A.C.Narayan
North by : Conservancy
South by : Property belongs to T.Gopal

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

Terror on the road

India needs to rethink its Kashmir strategy and attitude to Pakistan

In another spectre of violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), five soldiers were killed and another critically injured in a terror attack on April 20 in the Rajouri-Poonch Sector, close to the Line of Control (LoC) in the Jammu division. Preliminary reports have suggested that terrorists – their numbers and affiliations are not known immediately – attacked, in inclement weather, an Army vehicle that was on a counter-insurgency patrol between Bhimber Gali-Poonch in the Rajouri sector. The attack also comes at a time when J&K is working diligently to host a G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting, in May. Separately, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is likely to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Goa next month, which has kindled the possibility of fresh India-Pakistan engagement. The attack raises the question about the management of patrols in sensitive locations in the region which has seen a spike in militant violence in the recent past, including a terror attack on a village on January 1 this year that left seven civilians dead. The fact that the Army vehicle was on an unaccompanied drive and remained unattended immediately after the attack is a matter of serious concern.

The images of the Army vehicle on fire and charred bodies have reignited memories of and visuals from the Pulwama attack in 2019. On February 14 that year, a convoy of buses with Central Reserve Police Force jawans was on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway way in Pulwama's Lethpora area when a suicide bomber in an explosive-laden car managed to breach security. Forty personnel lost their lives in the terror attack that shocked the political class, the military establishment and the country. With Indian intelligence agencies pointing to the role of the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), India sent its fighter jets across the Line of Control to strike JeM training camps in Balakot, Pakistan, inflicting casualties and damaging the terror infrastructure there. India's strident response to cross-border terror was noticed internationally, and became a topic of campaign during the Lok Sabha election soon after. However, terror emanating from Pakistan has failed to ebb, which is evident from the rising violence in J&K over the past three years, especially after the government decided to end the region's semi-autonomous status on August 5, 2019. Claims on the subject made recently by the then J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, in interviews, have brought to the fore fresh questions about the intent behind the political class while approaching the issue of terrorism in the country. Perhaps it is time India reviewed its strategy in Kashmir, including the current freeze on talks with Pakistan.

Veto by silence

Centre seems to be forcing Collegium to recall its recommendations by inaction

In recalling its recommendation to appoint Justice S. Muralidhar as Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, the Supreme Court collegium has let the Union government, which did not act on the decision for eight months, have its way. One can only conclude that the Centre has been deliberately refraining from acting on the recommendation, presumably to stall the transfer. The Collegium has now decided instead, to propose the name of Justice S.V. Gangapurwala, a judge of the Bombay High Court, as the next Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. The reason appears to be the Collegium's keenness to have a permanent Chief Justice for the High Court, as the senior-most judge has been acting as Chief Justice for nearly eight months. It was decided in September 2022 that Justice Muralidhar would be shifted from the Orissa High Court to succeed Justice M.N. Bhandari, who retired as head of the Madras High Court. Meanwhile, Justice T. Raja, the senior-most judge in Chennai, was acting as Chief Justice, but it was decided in November 2022 that he would be shifted to the Rajasthan High Court. Justice Raja's representation that his transfer be reconsidered was rejected by the Collegium. However, the Centre did not notify his transfer too, resulting in his continuance as Acting Chief Justice in the Madras High Court for an unusually long period. He is due to retire on May 24, 2023. As if to underscore its disapproval of the state of affairs, the Collegium resolution reiterated that Justice Raja's transfer "be effectuated at the earliest", and observed that even his continuance as a judge would not be an impediment to the appointment of Justice Gangapurwala as Chief Justice.

There are recent instances of the government highlighting the political views of prospective appointees to stall their elevation to the Bench. In most cases, however, inaction is the main means to stall an appointment. A question that arises is whether such deliberate inaction on the Centre's part will be allowed to be the norm. The last move will, no doubt, embolden the Centre, to exercise a right to veto any appointment or transfer proposed by the Collegium. Notwithstanding the flaws in the Collegium system, the present state of affairs bodes ill for the independence of the judiciary. The system is founded on the premise of judicial primacy, but it now appears that the executive has found a way of circumventing it – merely by refusing to give effect to the Collegium's recommendations. In effect, the present regime has upended the legal position that the recommendations are binding on the government if the Collegium reiterates its stand with regard to any appointment.

The LoC agreement of 2007 deserves a relook

Suhasini Haidar

In a book completed shortly before his passing, former Special Envoy Satinder Lambah made several revelations about the India-Pakistan dialogue process he once squired. Lambah confirmed that the agreement on the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, was indeed ready to be signed by then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President General Musharraf. But the stand-off with the judiciary that erupted in Pakistan in 2007, and the Mumbai 26/11 attacks in 2008 came in the way, effectively shelving any plans to revive it.

A 'normal border'

While the contours of the agreement (one that would seek "not to redraw borders, but make borders irrelevant") have been recorded by Pakistani leaders including Gen. Musharraf (in his memoir, *In The Line of Fire*) and former Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri (in his insider account, *Neither a Hawk Nor a Dove*), there has only been a fleeting description in India thus far. Lambah first referred to the settlement publicly in 2014, while addressing a university audience in Srinagar, making it clear that India would never agree to giving away any territory. In his memoir, he expands on the agreement, drawing the progression of the original "4-point solution" to a "14-point set of guidelines" for any settlement between the two countries. The list that refers to a free flow of trade, ending cross-border terrorism, respect for human rights, and bringing down military presence (but not demilitarisation) on both sides of the LoC, hinges on one simple idea: that the "Line of Control has to be respected like a normal border between the two countries". It is an idea that has stood the test of time, circumstances and radical shifts in the India-Pakistan equation.

A reality check is important before going any further in discussing the validity of that solution. Two decades after the process began, nearly everyone involved in the talks from 2003-2008 in India and Pakistan has either passed away, is out of power, or would find it politically inconvenient to discuss a resolution with the other side. A series of terror attacks, from Mumbai to Pathankot and Pulwama, have run a veto over any Indian initiative to restart dialogue, while the Narendra Modi government's reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in August 2019, and amendment to Article 370 have made it difficult for any Pakistani leader to propose a restoration of ties. As a result, the optics are grim for the two land neighbours: no political contact at any level, no trade, no direct travel links by air, road or rail, and no High Commissioners in each other's countries.

The present scenario, after the terror attack in Poonch this week, will no doubt rend relations further apart, just days before Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto arrives in India for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Foreign Ministers Meeting, in Goa.

> Events may have caused an agreement to slip away, but the fact is that the LoC is an idea that has stood the test of time, circumstances and radical shifts in the India-Pakistan equation

Seeking engagement

However, as the book records, no matter how much India-Pakistan ties rupture, the long arc of the relationship always veers towards engagement. Lambah recounts that it was not just six Prime Ministers he had worked with from 1984-2014 on Pakistan, but also the seventh leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, who continued to seek engagement with Islamabad even after the severe setback he received to his visit in December 2015. Within a week of his surprise trip to Lahore, terrorists attacked the Pathankot airbase (January 2016). Even so, just over a year later, in April 2017, Lambah writes that he was contacted by a "senior official of the Prime Minister's Office" to ask him to travel to Pakistan to restart the back-channel process.

Regardless of the emissary used then (Lambah said he did not go, but that an Indian industrialist had arrived in Murree shortly after) the back-channel was put back in place. Believed to run between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and the Pakistani intelligence, it focuses on preventing hostilities, as it did during the post-Balakot downing of an Indian Air Force pilot in Pakistan in 2019, the LoC ceasefire agreement of 2021, or the aftermath of a live missile accidentally launched into Pakistan by the Indian Air Force in March 2022.

The two sides have also reportedly discussed a sequence of responses that would lead back to quasi-normalcy-restoration of statehood and elections in J&K, the reappointment of High Commissioners and the restoration of visas and people-to-people ties. These would include initiatives such as the Kartarpur Corridor, with Home Minister Amit Shah hinting this month that a "Sharda Peeth Corridor" across to the temple in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's Neelum Valley is being thought of.

The next step would be to revisit the nearly-ready agreement of 15 years ago, that Lambah writes, was legally vetted. One of the big changes from then to now was New Delhi's moves on August 5, 2019 (revoking J&K's special status and Statehood), which led Pakistan to snap trade and travel links and recall High Commissioners. However, a more long-term view of the moves might find that they did not change the basis for a settlement of the J&K dispute. To begin with, Article 370, which was always a temporary provision, and diluted over the decades, was never recognised by Pakistan.

The second move, on Article 35(A) redefining permanent residents of the State, has had little to no effect in changing demography thus far, and could only do so with consensus from every part of the erstwhile State. The third move, on gender parity in property inheritance, had already been implemented in 2002, when the J&K High Court ruled against the provision taking away property rights of women who married outside the State. The fourth, downgrading the State to a Union Territory will be reversed, according to the government, once elections are held.

More than the legal moves (that have changed little on the ground), is the focus on the means adopted to wrought those moves: unjust arrests and a continuing security crackdown on politicians and civil society, Internet bans and a stringent lockdown, and a targeting of journalists as well as human rights violations. Eventually, reversing these measures is part of any democracy's contract with its people, and the longer New Delhi takes to ease restrictions on the Valley, the more elusive "normalcy" will be. Even more necessary is to end cross-border terrorism from Pakistan that the people of J&K, including the Kashmiri Pandit community, have suffered from for decades now, and not just since 2019.

The LAC is the bigger challenge

The truth is that despite the precariousness of the situation within J&K, the LoC has been more or less stable for more than half a century. Any military operation by either India or Pakistan to reclaim the other side is unlikely to make much headway, and would undoubtedly unravel more than just the boundary between them. While Pakistani politicians have been heavily opposed to accepting any "status quo" solution to Kashmir, Pakistan's own internal crises (political and economic) ensure that it is on a weak wicket. It is the threat to India from China at the Line of Actual Control that is more likely to continue to be India's bigger challenge; and as a result, India's need for a more stable Line of Control grows (to avoid a two-front military engagement). Meanwhile, residents of J&K deserve a chance to prosper without the constant overhang of war and a proxy war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. A bilateral agreement would also end the false hope of independence the residents of the Valley have been beguiled with for far too long. Revisiting the non-territorial near-agreement LoC of a decade-and-a-half ago is eventually the only way forward, regardless of how much time goes by, how much water flows in the Indus, or how many lives are lost before both sides deem it necessary to do so.

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

Botanical gardens and life on earth

Kamal Bawa

is President Emeritus of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

Vinita Gowda

is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal (IISER Bhopal), Madhya Pradesh

On this Earth Day (April 22), we should celebrate the recent decision of the Tamil Nadu government to establish a large botanical garden (the Chengalpattu Botanical Garden) in the State as an important and welcome piece of news. Plants form the basis of civilisation. Humanity has had a long association with gardens ever since man learned to cultivate plants more than 11,000 years ago, marking the dawn of agriculture. The tradition of home gardens – planned spaces around homes to grow edible and medicinal plants – has been noted in ancient texts and depicted in cave paintings, showing the antiquity of gardening.

Gardens capture a part of earth's biodiversity for our enjoyment; modern academic gardens often have hundreds and thousands of dried plant specimens for research.

Rulers, from ancient civilisations to modern ones, owned botanical gardens rich in native plants and plants collected from distant places. These patrons of botanical gardens not only funded but also oversaw botanical collections; a beautiful garden was an important metric of one's prosperity and eclectic administration.

Between the 15th to 17th centuries, European explorations led to the establishment of several academic botanical gardens, where both plant curiosities and research on plants were used to justify their establishment. The oldest of these, Orto Botanico di Padova in Italy, was founded in 1545, and the most well-known, the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew near London, was formally consolidated in 1840. Today, these botanical gardens are major centres of research and education on plants as well as famous tourist destinations.

The gardens in India

The oldest of the Indian academic gardens, the Acharya Jagadish Chandra (AJC) Bose Indian Botanic Garden, in Howrah, Kolkata, was established in 1787, albeit under a different name. The Garden is spread over 109 hectares. The city is also the headquarters of the Botanical Survey of India, and thus the country's major research centre in botanical surveys and documentation.

The exact number of botanical gardens in India is not known – the published number ranges from between 10 to 35. Globally, botanical gardens are important centres for plant exploration, discovery and research, as well as biodiversity outreach. Indian botanical gardens have often lacked this wider perspective. Only a handful of botanical gardens, such as the Botanic Garden of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)-Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute in Palode (Kerala), the AJC Indian Botanic Garden, and, more recently, the KSCSTE-Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences, Kozhikode (Kerala) have plant exploration and education programmes.

> As an example of complex engineering, botanical gardens represent the richness of life on earth and a metric of national success in science and outreach

Limited knowledge, yet a chance for change

India is among the countries with a high diversity of plants and animals, with an estimated 18,000 to 20,000 plant species. Plants are the structural foundations of our diverse ecological communities that feed us, provide us with nutrition and medicine, mitigate climate change, enrich our spirits, and secure us against an uncertain future. Yet, our knowledge of our vast botanical heritage is extremely limited.

Our scientific and educational institutions, with a few exceptions, have neglected many aspects of plant biology: taxonomy, ecology, evolution, plant-animal and plant mycorrhizal interactions, population ecology and stress biology to name a few. The neglect is hard to understand given the importance of plants in our daily lives, and our continued pursuit for novel cures and the restoration of nature.

The ₹300 crore Chengalpattu Botanical Garden (CBG), at Kadambur village in Chengalpattu district, is being planned across 138 hectares, and will be India's largest botanical garden.

The CBG has the potential to become a major centre for the exploration and discovery of our plant wealth, a centre of research, education, citizen science, and outreach in plant biology, and be a forceful voice in conservation.

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew has been chosen as a key partner for technical expertise on what plants to use and how to maintain them. While the Kew gardens are indisputably one of the largest and sophisticated botanical gardens in the northern hemisphere, many institutions and individuals in India also have the relevant and appropriate expertise in the design and development of gardens. In the past two decades, the botanical gardens in Singapore, Thailand, and Indonesia, to name a few, have set new standards in their research and outreach programmes while maintaining their recreational and ecotourism features. Collaboration with such gardens that share many plant species could be immensely beneficial.

As a standard

Given the complex engineering that goes behind the construction and maintenance of a successful garden, botanical gardens today represent a metric of national success, from the perspectives of science, technology, and outreach, just as in the golden ages of this region, dating as far back as the Maurya monarch, Aśoka, when a botanical garden was a display of prosperity, scientific dispositions, and eclectic administration.

And it is not just the botanical garden. In this era of climate change and declining biodiversity, we need every inch of our backyards and elsewhere to nurture native plants and associated living organisms, to remind ourselves and the generations to come of the need to heal our earth through the power of plants.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judgments on Thursday

The news report, "67 accused in Naroda village massacre case acquitted" (Inside pages, April 21), is another dark spot in the history of independent India. The Wikipedia page entry on the subject ("Naroda Patiya massacre") has very strong and graphic descriptions. Coming back to the news report on the Naroda verdict, one has, on the same page of the newspaper, another report, "Congress to appeal against verdict rejecting Rahul's plea for stay on conviction". The way events are turning out makes one ponder over the course of justice.

G. Radhakrishnan,
Thiruvananthapuram

If a special court is unable to find anyone to be an 'accused person', then should not the judiciary direct the police or the CBI to find out who was responsible? Are we witnessing a new India where rioters are acquitted, the Opposition is put behind bars for raising issues against the government, and rapists are treated like war heroes? We wait to see whether the family members of the dead will be served justice in their lifetime.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad, Haryana

One cannot help juxtaposing the Rahul Gandhi case with that of the Naroda *Gam* massacre case. The stark difference between the two judgments is a telling comment on the state of the justice delivery system. Was there no evidence at all against those who were pronounced 'not guilty'? If the accused were all innocent, who were the persons who carried out the massacre? Courts cannot afford to lose their credibility and drive ordinary citizens to despair.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Bovine TB

Another dimension to human TB is the transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis to humans; it causes symptoms similar to human TB. Periodic testing of cattle, avoiding unpasteurised milk and dairy products, and ensuring the hard boiling of milk before consumption are essential steps.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

The spot on the premises of the Calvin Hospital where Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf were killed by three men in the glare of television cameras and in the presence of the police, in Prayagraj. V.V. KRISHNAN

The rise and fall of Atiq Ahmed

From his early years, Atiq Ahmed lived on the wrong side of the law. In time, large swathes of the area around erstwhile Allahabad came under his criminal sway. **Devesh K. Pandey** chronicles the career of the gangster-politician, and the circumstances and lingering questions around his death this month

It all came to an end on April 15. Atiq Ahmed, the son of a tongawalla who entered the world of crime as a teenager and gained notoriety through allegations of killings in broad daylight, fell to bullets along with his brother in the glare of television cameras and in the presence of the police. The shots were fired late at night on the premises of Calvin Hospital in Prayagraj. Just hours earlier, the body of Ahmed's son Asad, who had been killed by the police, was buried in a graveyard nearby.

Escorted by armed policemen, Ahmed and Khalid Azim alias Ashraf had been brought to the hospital for a routine medical check-up when three shooters, posing as mediapersons, fired at them from close range at 10.35 p.m. As reporters posed questions to the gangster-turned-politicians, one assailant removed his turban and shot Ahmed in the head point-blank. Ahmed collapsed on the floor along with his brother, who had been handcuffed with him. The shooters fired 18 bullets at Ahmed and Ashraf, killing them on the spot, before being overpowered by the police. The murders, which triggered fear among the residents of a possible backlash from Ahmed's supporters, took place in the same area from where he had launched his political career.

From Allahabad to Phulpur

Born on August 10, 1962, to a "hothead" tongawalla, Haji Feroz Ahmed, in the Kasari Masari area, Ahmed had not yet completed his matriculation when he got into petty crime. Then he began committing serious crimes: the first murder case against him was registered at the Khuldabad police station in 1979. Around the same time, he also took up municipal contract works. In due course, he reportedly came close to another gangster from the Sabzi Mandi area, Shauq-e-Ilahi alias Chand Baba, who had created terror in Prayagraj, erstwhile Allahabad, by carrying out murders and using crude bombs to target his rivals and even the police.

While in jail, Chand Baba became a corporator in 1989. He was released on conditional bail. Thereafter, the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections were announced. By then, Ahmed had made up his mind to file his nomination from the Allahabad West seat as an independent candidate and, it is said, also managed to get Chand Baba's support. However, Chand Baba later decided to contest the poll as an independent candidate too. This led to a confrontation. Even before election results were declared, Chand Baba was murdered at a dhaba in Raushan Bagh on November 6, 1989.

"It was a power struggle between the two gangsters aimed at establishing supremacy in their community for political gains. Chand Baba's murder brought Ahmed to the limelight, and there was no looking back for him. He won the 1989 election as an independent candidate," said journalist Anupam Mishra in Prayagraj. "Ahmed again won the polls from the same constituency in 1991 and 1993 as an independent candidate, and then in 1996 on a Samajwadi Party (SP) ticket and in 2002 on an Apna Dal ticket."

Located at the banks of the Ganga, Prayagraj has long been a cultural, educational and political hub. It houses the Allahabad High Court and a once top-notch university. It was also the home base of the Nehru family, and a base for the Congress party during the freedom movement. In every nook and cranny of this city, which is an important pilgrimage centre, are heritage buildings that attract thousands of tourists every year. However, over the past few decades, the city has often been hitting the headlines for the wrong reasons. "The post-Mandal Commission protests in 1990 saw the emergence of regional parties in northern India. During the same phase, there was also politicisation of criminals of the likes of Atiq Ahmed, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar," recalled Mishra.

> Businessmen were terrified of Ahmed and his henchmen. For election expenses, he would force them to pay up huge amounts, up to ₹5 lakh per head.
> Shop owner, Dhoomanganj

Once he became a politician, Ahmed is believed to have found a lucrative option in land-grabbing for raising funds. If landowners and property dealers did not comply, he would allegedly issue threats to them. Stories are legion. For instance, a Prayagraj resident, Surajkali, told the media that her family's 12.50 bigha land was captured by gangsters about 30 years ago. Her husband went missing and has not returned since. When she pursued the matter with the authorities, she was threatened with dire consequences. In 2016, she and her son were attacked.

According to locals, Ahmed often moved around escorted by guards carrying assault rifles. "Businessmen were terrified of him and his henchmen. For election expenses, he would force them to pay up huge amounts, up to ₹5 lakh per head," claimed a shop owner in Dhoomanganj.

Over the past four decades, during which more than 100 cases were registered against him, Ahmed was arrested many times. Lalji Shukla, a retired officer of the Indian Police Service, said that as a Superintendent of Police (SP) he had first arrested the gangster on August 9, 1996, in a murder case. He again arrested him on February 15, 2001, for an alleged role in the murder of a man called Ashfaq in 1994. "In the Surajkali matter, I had sent a team that arrested him in July 2002. In order to get me transferred from the post of SP City, he orchestrated a bomb attack on himself and alleged that I was involved. It later turned out that apart from Atiq Ahmed, his father and brother were also involved," he recalled.

Shukla said during his tenure, 50 properties linked to Ahmed were attached under the Gangsters Act. "We had dismantled almost his entire network. However, he got a reprieve with the return of the SP to power in Uttar Pradesh in 2003," he said. In official records, Ahmed's group, codenamed Gang No.227, was soon shown as inactive. In several cases, witnesses were intimidated, and proceedings delayed on various pretexts.

Atiq Ahmed and his brother Ashraf Ahmed being escorted by the police for a medical checkup, in Prayagraj. They were killed moments later. PTI

In 2003, Atiq Ahmed, who was with the Apna Dal, rejoined the SP. The next year, he was elected as the Lok Sabha Member from Phulpur, the constituency once represented by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. He then decided to field his brother, Ashraf, from the vacated Allahabad West Assembly constituency in the October 2004 bypoll. Ashraf lost to Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate, Raju Pal.

The Raju Pal case

In the afternoon of January 25, 2005, Raju Pal was travelling in a car along with two others. His security guards were tailing them in another vehicle. Suddenly, eight persons, allegedly including Ashraf, intercepted them and opened fire indiscriminately. Raju Pal and his co-travellers sustained bullet injuries. The MLA's supporters pulled him out of the vehicle and were taking him to a nursing home in an autorickshaw when the assailants again fired at him from close range. The third round of firing happened close to the nursing home and killed Raju Pal. His co-travellers also succumbed to their injuries.

> Footage of the incident shows that none of the policemen escorting the two even attempted to open fire in retaliation.
> Resident, Prayagraj

Ashraf was arrested in the case, and Ahmed surrendered before a court and was sent to judicial custody. In the byelection, the BSP fielded Raju Pal's widow Pooja Pal, who had lost her husband just days after their marriage. Ashraf again contested on an SP ticket and won this time. However, the murder case remained alive with the prime witness, Umesh Pal, refusing to retract his testimony. On February 28, 2006, Umesh was abducted at gunpoint, and told to remain quiet.

Days after the BSP government came to power in June 2007, Umesh Pal lodged a First Information Report against Ahmed and others for his alleged abduction. Under pressure, the gangster surrendered in 2008 and could secure bail only four years later.

During the 2014 general elections, Ahmed contested from Shrawasti on an SP ticket and lost. It was an early indication that his political career was on the wane. "However, for almost 15 years, he exercised control over the system and would decide key postings in Prayagraj. Once several judges recused themselves from hearing his bail application," said a senior police officer on the condition of anonymity.

The don was back in the spotlight in December 2016 when a video clip showing him and his men assaulting a professor and the staff of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences went viral on social media. The Allahabad High Court took note, and on February 10, 2017, summoned his criminal records. He was subsequently arrested and sent to prison. "After that, he could never come out of jail," said Shukla. In 2017, the Bharatiya Janata Party came to power in the State. Irrespective of the regime change, Ahmed continued to operate from behind bars. While lodged in Deoria prison, he is alleged to have got a Lucknow businessman, Mohit Jaiswal, abducted and beaten up in December 2018 for extortion.

Taking cognisance of a petition in this regard, the Supreme Court – which found that there were 106 cases against him, of which 26 were pending in various courts – in April 2019 directed that Ahmed be shifted to Sabarmati jail in Gujarat, and ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to take over the investigation. The same year, despite being in jail, he contested as an independent candidate against Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi, but secured just 855 votes.

In the meantime, as part of pro-active action against gangsters, the U.P. government had clamped down on Ahmed's network. Immoveable assets worth hundreds of crores were seized or demolished. His house in Chakiya and an office were razed. The police identified 16 companies floated for real estate and other projects, and illegally acquired land parcels retrieved. Based on the criminal cases, the Enforcement Directorate also launched investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Even as the exercise was under way, things took a dramatic turn when Umesh Pal and two security guards were killed by assailants outside his house in Prayagraj on February 24, 2023. The entire incident was recorded on a closed-circuit television camera. Among the shooters was Ahmed's son Asad. The assailants fired several rounds and hurled bombs before fleeing.

An intensive police crackdown followed and the accused Arbaaz and Vijay Chaudhary were killed in "encounters" on February 27 and March 6. Ahmed and Ashraf, who claimed that there was a threat to their lives, were brought back from Sabarmati jail by road on March 27. The next day, a trial court convicted Ahmed and two others in the Umesh Pal abduction case. Ahmed was sentenced to life imprisonment. It was his first conviction in any criminal case.

Surveillance had already been mounted on Asad. He was finally traced to Jhansi where, along with his associate Ghulam, he was shot dead by the police on April 13. In the court complex, Ahmed broke into tears that day, saying only he was responsible for what had happened. The police took him and Ashraf into five-day custody in the Umesh Pal murder case. Ahmed had sought permission to attend his son's last rites on April 15, but his plea was rejected. Hours later, he and his brother were gunned down by Arun Maurya (18), Lavlesh (22) and Sunny Singh (23).

An uneasy calm

In the evening of April 16, the bullet-ridden bodies of Ahmed and Ashraf were buried alongside Asad's in the Kasari Masari graveyard. "There was heavy police presence. We were not allowed to offer final prayers. After all, he was our MP and his supporters should have been permitted entry," said Asif, a resident of nearby Chakiya, Ahmed's den where an uneasy calm prevailed. Following Asad's killing, hundreds of policemen and Rapid Action Force personnel were deployed in the area as a precautionary measure.

Several residents raised questions about the police's role in the killings. "Atiq Bhai and his brother were in their custody," said one resident on the condition of anonymity. "The police brought them from Sabarmati jail under heavy security arrangements but failed to give them adequate protection in Prayagraj. Footage of the incident shows that none of the policemen escorting the two even attempted to open fire in retaliation. The three shooters come from poor backgrounds, but they were carrying costly weapons, which indicates a larger conspiracy."

Another resident asked: "Now that the assailants have been arrested and identified, will the authorities demolish their homes?" A shopkeeper lamented that the recent turn of events had adversely impacted businesses during Ramzan. "The government shut down the Internet, so no one was able to make any digital transaction for two days. This year, Eid celebrations will also get affected, causing huge losses."

While the three shooters have been taken into police custody for interrogation, the hunt is also on for Ahmed's wife Shaista Parween, a co-accused in the Umesh Pal murder case. Their two minor sons are in a juvenile centre and their two other sons are in prison. Parween's close relatives are also untraceable.

From Page One

NIA team in Poonch; search on for attackers

Security agencies suspect that the attackers were hiding in the forest area and opened fire from a distance. The security forces launched searches in the area on Thursday evening and the multiple operations continued in the region on Friday. "Drones were put into service by the Army to spot the attackers. Sniffer dogs also fanned out to trace the route of the attackers," officials said. The attack comes at a time when the Jammu & Kashmir administration is preparing to host a meeting next month of delegates from G-20 nations.

Top officers of the Border Security Force (BSF) also huddled in Jammu to further step up vigil along the LoC and the International Border (IB) in J&K. Director-General of BSF Dr. S.L. Thaosen briefed the field commanders about recent threats on the LoC and the IB. "A special emphasis was given to the domination of LoC and IB due to recent incidents in Jammu and Rajouri area," an official spokesman said. Meanwhile, a wreath-laying ceremony was organised at Rajouri with full military traditions for the five soldiers.

Small saving scheme rates still to catch up

Mind the gap

Returns on some preferred small savings schemes are below prescribed levels

Small Savings Scheme	Formula-based rate	Declared rate
Public Provident Fund	7.76%	7.10%
Recurring deposit A/c	7.02%	6.20%
Monthly income scheme	7.46%	7.40%
Senior citizens savings scheme	8.25%	8.20%
Sukanya Samriddhi	8.26%	8%
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.51%	7.50%
NSC VIII	7.70%	7.70%

NOTE: RATES ARE FOR Q1, 2023-24 | SOURCE: RBI

For the current quarter, interest rates on most SSIs were raised by 10-70 bps, barring the Public Provident Fund (PPF), whose return has been maintained at 7.1% since April 2020. As per calculations released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, the gap between the formula-based rates and the current rates is in the range of 5 bps to 82 bps for five SSIs, including the PPF. The widest gap is in the returns offered on the Recurring Deposit Account which is yielding 6.2% to depositors as opposed to 7.02% prescribed by the formula for SSIs accepted by the government since 2016. The similar gap from the PPF rate is 66 bps.

The Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) scheme's returns, hiked to 8% in this quarter for the first time in four years, are also 26 basis points lower than the formula-based rate of 8.26%. SSA returns had been at 7.6% till March, with the distance from the formula rates pegged at 62 bps two quarters earlier. The Senior Citizens' savings scheme, which now offers 8.2%, should have earned 8.25% this quarter. A similar, relatively smaller, but statistically significant six basis point chasm exists between the 7.4% offered on savings in the Monthly Income Scheme compared to the formula-based rates.

The formula for small savings rates, recommended by a panel led by former RBI Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath, mandates a quarterly reset that links their returns to the average quarterly yields on government securities in the first three of the preceding four months. "The government wants to cut down costs of small savings and prefers to use market borrowings. Therefore, it appears to be not following the committee guidance," Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis told *The Hindu*.

CBI seeks details from Saytapal Malik in J&K insurance case

In April 2022, the CBI had registered two cases on a reference from the State administration, following corruption charges made by Malik

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> The CBI has not summoned me. They need some clarifications for which they contacted me to find out when I would be available
>
> **SATYAPAL MALIK**
> Former Jammu & Kashmir Governor

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has sought some clarifications from former Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik in connection with a group health insurance scheme case.

"The CBI has not summoned me. They need some clarifications for which they contacted me to find out when I would be available. The meeting has been scheduled for April 28," said Mr. Malik on phone, adding that during his tenure, he had cancelled the scheme.

The development comes days after the Opposition parties targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the several charges Mr. Malik made during an interview with journalist Karan Thapar for *The Wire*.

In April 2022, the CBI had registered two cases on a reference from the State administration, following corruption charges made by Mr. Malik, to investigate the alleged malpractices in the award of contracts related to the insurance scheme; and civil works worth about ₹2,200 crore.

Irregularities in scheme

Irregularities were alleged in the award of contract for the Jammu and Kashmir Employees Health Care Insurance Scheme and release of about ₹60 crore in 2017-18. The allegation mainly pertained to the process adopted and rates fixed under the scheme.

According to the agency, the State administration found that the process for selecting the insurer was initiated in February 2017 and a consultant appointed via competitive bidding. A notice-inviting tender was then issued in June 2018 and the new insurer selected in 2018 through competitive bidding.

Under the new scheme, an insurance of ₹6 lakh per annum per employee/pensioner on a premium of ₹8,777 (employees) and ₹22,291 (pensioners) had been fixed.

Following several protests, the contract was cancelled by Mr. Malik in October 2018.

Congress raps prosecution in Naroda Gam massacre case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday said that there had been a "categorical lapse" on the part of the Gujarat prosecution team, a day after a special trial court in Ahmedabad acquitted all 67 accused in the February 2002 Naroda Gam massacre, including Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) former Gujarat Minister Maya Kodnani.

"It is clear that there has been a categorical lapse on the part of the prosecution in the performance of its role," Congress general secretary for communications Jairam Ramesh said.

"The only way the prosecution and prosecuting State can prove this to be false is if they pursue the appeal process with seriousness and expediency," he said, adding that the party was awaiting the detailed judgment to offer a comprehensive statement.

The Congress said even if delayed, justice will not be denied to families of the deceased.

"Justice is a right that must be secured through constant vigil," Mr. Ramesh stated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presenting the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2022 to Syed Sherish Asgar, Collector of Baramulla, in New Delhi on Friday. SANJAY SHARMA

Track parties using taxpayers' money to create vote banks: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called upon bureaucrats to assess if a political party is using taxpayers' money to promote and advertise itself, create vote banks and appoint its own party workers in various organisations.

Mr. Modi asked the bureaucrats to question if a political party is making changes in policies so that new avenues of black money can be created for its masters.

He said if bureaucracy lapses, then the country's wealth will be looted, taxpayers' money will be destroyed and the dreams of the country's youth will be shattered.

Mr. Modi addressed civil servants on the occasion of the 16th Civil Services Day and also conferred the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.

"Political parties are very important in any democracy and it is also necessary. Every party has its own ideology, the Constitution has given this right to every party. But as a bureaucrat, as a government employee, there is a need to assess if a political party which has come to power, is using taxpayers' money for the benefit of its party, or where is it being used for the benefit of the country," Mr. Modi said.

Vadra-DLF land deal still under probe, says Haryana govt.

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Friday said that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to investigate the transfer of land done between Skylight Hospitality (Robert Vadra's company) and DLF Universal Limited (a real estate major) was still actively probing the matter and reports surrounding 'clean chit' were fabricated.

"..reports claiming "clean chit" given by the Special Investigation Team constituted to investigate the transfer of land done between M/s Skylight Hospitality to M/s DLF Universal Limited as fabricated and beyond facts," said an official government statement.

According to a police statement, the matter is still under active investigation. "The SIT is still obtaining more relevant documents and also examining a number of individuals connected with the case. The focus of SIT's investigation is not limited to just probing the revenue loss, rather the investigation aims to expose all those who are involved in the criminal conspiracy with the motive of giving high financial gains to certain individuals...," said the statement.

The statement added that a report (in Punjab and Haryana High Court) has been submitted by the Tehsildar Manesar (Gurugram) stated that M/s Skylight Hospitality sold 3.5 acres to M/s DLF Universal Limited on 18.09.2012 and this transfer of land has been done in accordance with the Indian Registration Act, 1908 and no regulations-rules have been violated – this report of the Tehsildar is erroneously being presented as a 'clean chit'.

Why were political parties not informed about defective VVPATs, demands Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress slammed the Election Commission (EC) for not keeping political parties in loop as reports emerge that the EC has identified 6.5 lakh Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines as defective.

Addressing a press conference, party's spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "In an atmosphere of increasing questions on the EVMs, defects at such a large scale require full transparency to restore public faith and trust in the electoral process."

He claimed that the number of machines in which defects had been found was more than one-third the number used in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, and could have affected the voters both in the last general election and the subsequent Assembly polls.

A Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machine.

"This cannot be treated as isolated incidents since thousands of VVPATs with consecutive serial numbers in entire batches, from different manufacturers, have been found defective. The defects are serious enough that the machines have been returned to the manufacturers," he added.

Mr. Khera further accused the EC of not following the standard operating procedure that the panel had framed for itself. "Normally, the field officers are responsible for identifying defects. For example, when a new VVPAT is received, the District Election Officer carries out a "first level check". If any fault is identified, within 7 days, the machine is returned to the manufacturer for repairs, in coordination with the Chief Election Officer concerned," he said.

"But in this case, the Election Commission itself decided in 2021 that these machines must be repaired, and sent instructions to all States and Union Territories, except Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Laskhadweep, and Daman and Diu," he explained. The panel, at the very least, should have come clean to the political parties, he said.

SC notice to Delhi L-G over appointment of DERC chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the office of Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena to respond to a petition filed by the Delhi government alleging inaction on their part to clear a proposal to appoint the chairman of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi submitted that the L-G had been delaying a decision on the ground that he required legal opinion to ascertain if the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the Delhi HC was required to make appointment. The matter is posted for next hearing on April 28. On January 10, former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia had written to the L-G.

The tenure of incumbent chairman Justice (retired) Shabihul Hasnain has lapsed.

Why invoke NSA against YouTuber, SC asks T.N. govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday found the Bihar and Tamil Nadu governments on the same page against a proposal to club multiple FIRs against YouTuber Manish Kashyap and transfer them all to Bihar.

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Bihar government counsel agreed with senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who represented Tamil Nadu, that the FIRs registered against Mr. Kashyap cannot be combined into one investigation. However, the court questioned the Tamil Nadu government about the invocation of the National Security Act (NSA) against Mr. Kashyap.

Fact-checking network focuses on fake news on ruling party, Centre

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

A coalition of fact-checking sites that is positioning itself as the go-to grouping to address fake news on social media has collectively focused on misinformation that reflects poorly on the ruling party, its allies, and the Union government, according to a review of the sites' fact-checks by *The Hindu*.

The Misinformation Combat Alliance (MCA), a network of 14 digital publishers, provided a proposal last week to the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) to form a self-regulatory body that would provide fact-checking services to social media platforms, reportedly with assistance from firms like Meta and Google. This would be in line with an anti-fake news provision in the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

MCA membership is open to any qualifying organisation that fills out its form. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The MCA's membership includes publications such as *Boom Live*, *Factly*, *The Logical Indian*, *Vishwas News* and *The Quint*. Some of the members do not appear to be publishing fact-checks on their websites.

Priorities revealed

The focus areas of those publications that do publish fact-checks regularly reveals their potential priorities as part of a fact-checking network sanctioned by the government. *The Hindu* reviewed 142 articles published by these fact-checking sites from April 7 to April 13 Of these, the single largest category of 28 articles was fake news that painted the Union government, the BJP, or the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in a negative light.

The MCA's proposal is to regulate misinformation that is unrelated to the Union government, which is reportedly due to the Central government's unwillingness to hand this mandate to an international network like the International Fact Checking Network (IFCN).

The MCA's members do not include all major fact-checking sites in India. One notable absentee from its membership is *Alt News*, which routinely documents hate speech by politicians and vets fake news with a communal angle.

"I don't trust them," said *Alt News*' co-founder Pratik Sinha, referring to the MCA and pointing to what he saw as the establishment-friendly nature of some of its member publishers.

MCA membership is open to any qualifying organisation that fills out its form.

New IT Rules allowing system of fact-checking with proof are in 'public interest': govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Political satirist Kunal Kamra had filed a petition in the Bombay HC against the amendment

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology termed "premature" political satirist Kunal Kamra's plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Information Technology (IT) Amendment Rules, 2023 and said the Rules are in "public interest" and provide an evidence-based fact-checking system for a mechanism to deal with fake or false or misleading information resulting in riots, mob lynching and other heinous crimes.

On April 10, Mr. Kamra through Internet Freedom Foundation filed a petition in the Bombay High Court against the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023, calling them "arbitrary, violating fundamental rights of speech and expression and vague". The next day, a Division Bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale directed the Ministry to file a response.

Ministry's response

On Friday, the Ministry filed an affidavit stating that the Central government will only direct the removal of false or misleading information pertaining to government policies and programmes as false news travelled six times faster than truth.

"Majority of news-related information consumed on social media platforms in India is produced by common users who may not possess the capabilities, resources and time to verify the information before publishing. Because of which ...anti-social and anti-India organisations have been using this feature of social media to deliberately publish and amplify false information. It would be appropriate that such a mechanism should not be viewed as being in conflict with fundamental rights," the Ministry said.

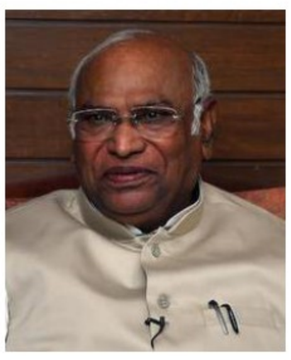
'Karnataka election result will change country's political scenario'

Democratic norms are violated, Constitution is ignored and autonomous bodies are misused; those who are ruling now are ignoring laws, says Congress president on why winning is crucial

INTERVIEW

Mallikarjun Kharge

Sandeep Phukan
Nagesh Prabhu



Accusing the ruling party in Karnataka and at the Centre of taking the law into its own hands, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge says it is important for the State and the country to see a change of guard. Edited excerpts:

How important is it for you, personally, to win the Assembly polls in Karnataka?

Instead of personal importance, I believe it is very important for us to win this election in the interest of the country. The country is facing so many problems: democratic norms are being violated, the Constitution is ignored, autonomous bodies are misused and there is no law and order, not only in Karnataka, but elsewhere also. Those who are ruling the States and the country are ignoring the existing laws. Instead of allowing the executive and the judiciary to implement laws, they are taking rules and regulations in their own hands. That's why it is very important – not only for me and my State but also for the prestige of the country – to win this election. This election will definitely change the entire country's political scenario and change the people's mood.

From Siddaramaiah to D.K. Shivakumar, the Congress seems to be divided when it comes to choosing a Chief Ministerial face. Though you clarified the issue in the Kolar rally, yet your name keeps cropping up...

My name always comes. Even the ruling government takes my name just to divert the attention of the people because they are facing anti-incumbency. Now, I am an AICC [All India Congress Committee] president and I have the power to appoint so many Chief Ministers. But still presspersons are asking me, "Are you going to become the CM?" Now, I want to see that my party should come to power in States and whosoever gets majority in the Assembly, the elected MLAs and the high command decide on who will become the CM.

The Congress is reaching out to important communities like the Lingayat community, but the Prime Minister seems to be very popular across communities. How will you counter this?

This is a State election and the people who led the party and the government should say what they have done to Karnataka. How much investment they got, how much infrastructure they built, how much irrigation they developed, how many roads were built, and the '40% commission' corruption, we are asking what you people have done during your regime. Is Mr. Modi going to become the Chief Minister of the State? The BJP leaders are seeking votes in the name of Mr. Modi.

While the Congress seems confident of a clear majority, political observers don't rule out a hung Assembly, and the BJP may get support from the Janata Dal (Secular). What are your thoughts on this?

We are going to form our own government. We are not depending on anybody. We will get the majority and that is our assessment.

The Karnataka election would perhaps set the tone for other Assembly elections later this year, like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In Rajasthan, the Congress is witnessing an intense tussle between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and senior leader Sachin Pilot. How would you resolve this?

Our people are reaching out to them and our in-charge secretary is reaching out to them. And discussions are going on to bring them together. See, one more thing I want to tell you. The party won't depend on one or two individuals. The party is the institution and in the institution, some individuals come and go.

Will we see Opposition parties putting up common candidates against the BJP?

The mode of journey in future will be decided after taking everybody on board. We have given some tasks to some parties where we can't approach directly and we will be talking to others. That [possibility of joint candidates] will be decided afterwards. *(For full interview, go to bit.ly/congchief)*

India to prepare evacuation plans for its citizens in Sudan

Around 3,000 Indians are stuck in the country without electricity, food and water; there is active fighting near the Indian mission in Khartoum

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Lives at risk: People fleeing street battles between the forces of two rival Sudanese generals in Khartoum on Friday. AFP

India is preparing contingency plans to evacuate its 3,000-odd citizens stuck in Sudan, where a major conflict has broken out between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed officials to prepare such plans at a high-level meeting on Friday, to discuss the condition of Indians trapped in the African nation.

The meeting, chaired by Mr. Modi, was attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Indian ambassador to Sudan B.S. Mubarak, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Secretary in charge of Overseas Indian Affairs Ausaf Sayeed, and high level officials from the Air Force and the Navy.

"Prime Minister Modi instructed all officials concerned to remain vigilant, and continuously evaluating the safety of Indian nationals in Sudan and extending them all possible assistance," a press note issued by the government said.

Mr. Modi expressed his condolences on the demise of an Indian national who was killed by a stray bullet during the fighting.

Mr. Jaishankar – who stopped at New York *en route* to Latin America – met with the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and discussed the evolving situation in Sudan.

The Ministry of External Affairs has cautioned Indians in Sudan about the fight raging near the Indian mission in Khartoum.

No crisis in BJP's Manipur unit, says Biren Singh

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh has downplayed the resignation of three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators from administrative posts.

The Manipur unit of the BJP or the government faces no crisis, Mr. Singh told presspersons after a party meeting in Imphal on Friday.

There have been speculations about dissension within the BJP in Manipur after three MLAs – Thokchom Radheshyam, Karam Shyam and P. Brojen – resigned from their posts.

"Everyone attended the meeting. We have no crisis in the BJP," the Chief Minister said. He also said that one of his Ministers was away in Madhya Pradesh on leave, while three MLAs went to New Delhi to undergo treatment.

These three MLAs are the ones who quit their administrative posts in Manipur.

Facilities for *wuzu* allowed at Gyanvapi mosque

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Varanasi authorities to provide worshippers at the Gyanvapi mosque "sufficient number of tubs" to store water required for *wuzu* or ritual ablutions before *namaaz*.

"In order to facilitate the performance of *wuzu*, the District Magistrate shall ensure that sufficient number of tubs with facilities for water are made available in proximity, so as not to inconvenience the devotees who come for performing *namaaz*," a Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud recorded a submission by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for Uttar Pradesh.

A portion of the premises housing the mosque was sealed off after reports emerged of finding a *shivling* last year. However, the Supreme Court had directed the local authorities to ensure that the Muslims were not hindered in their observance of *namaaz*.

FOSCOS web app to be available in many languages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Supporting ease of doing business in procuring licences by Food Business Operators (FBOs), the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will translate its application Food Safety and Compliance System (FOSCOS) in Hindi, followed by all regional languages.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR

No. 187 Date: 17.4.2023

Corrigendum no 1
NIT no- 24/2022-23

With reference to the Bid invited for the work "Rehabilitation and Improvement Work of Panchana Dam Tehsil & District Karauli, Rajasthan" Vide office letter no 10494 dated 22.03.2023 of this office, has been extended due to indispensable reason upto 24.04.2023 at 6:00 PM and technical bid will be open on dated 25.04.2023 at 3:00 PM. These changes/amendments may be seen on procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state.

NIB no: WRD2223A0764
UBN no: WRD2223WLOB02840

SE & TA
to Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone
Jaipur

DIPR/C/5641

TAMIL NADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.
Short e-tender notice

e-Tender Ref.No:14/2023-24, Appointment of contractors for outsourcing of limestone mining operations at Anandavadi Mines, Ariyalur, Ariyalur District , T.N.
Est. Value: **Rs.7.52 crores, EMD: Rs.5,00,000 /-**
Submission of tender: **Up to 3.00 P.M. on 28.04.2023**

Important Note:
The Tender document can be downloaded from **www.tntenders.gov.in** Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

DIPR/2261/TENDER/2023 COMPANY SECRETARY
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** /respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

TAMIL NADU NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
(A University established by Tamil Nadu Act No.9 2012)
Navalurkuttappattu, Dindigul Main Road, Tiruchirappalli - 620027,Tamil Nadu, India
Phone Off: 0431-2692101: Email :vicechancellor@tnnlu.ac.in: Website : www.tnnlu.ac.in

CORRIGENDUM

" The last sentence of the Advertisement that appeared on **20.04.2023** for the post of Vice-Chancellor shall be read as 'For further details see www.tnnlu.ac.in with the corrigendum issued to the notification on **20.04.2023'."**

DIPR/402/DISPLAY/2023 Search Committee
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. C.E. (DR) PR-I
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C) DR-XIV
SPS NAJAFGARH NEW DELHI-110043, Email: eecdrxiv@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA : Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
NIT No. 01 / EE (C) DR-XIV (2023-24)

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender Processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender Id	Last date/ time of receipt of tender
1	Providing House Sewer Connections (HSC) from nearest DJB manholes to individual house in u/a colonies under Kakrola GOC	Rs. 48923108/-	Rs. 9,72,462/-	Rs. 1500/-	21.04.2023/ 2023_DJB_239988_1	02.05.2023 upto 3:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) **(O P Sharma)**
Advt. No. J.S.V. 14 (2023-24) **Executive Engineer (C) DR-XIV**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
ANANDPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA. DIST :- KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758020
Tel No. (06731) 295003, E-Mail:cceabp@gmail.com/loabpbbsr@gmail.com

Tender Reference No-CCEABP- 02 of 2023-24 (Bid Id No. ABP-ABD-01/2 of 2023-24)
Online tenders are invited from Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders on EPC Contract

DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work	Class/EMD/Tender Fee/Period of Completion
Construction of distribution system for (A) 1229 Ha of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) of Baitarani Right Bank Canal (BRBC) from RD 0.00 km to 9.00 km, (B) 2221 Ha of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD of Baitarani Left Bank Canal (BLBC) from RD 0.00 km to 28.50 km through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation System (Gravity Flow) of Anandapur Barrage Project in Keonjhar district of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key basis including operation and maintenance of the commissioned project.	(1) Class of Contractor - Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders. (2) EMD: Rs 88.00 lakh to be transferred through online. (3) Tender Fee: Rs.10,000.00 to be transferred online (non-Refundable). (4) Period of completion: 18 (eighteen) calendar months including rainy seasons.

A. Period of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal : From 10.00 AM of 17.04.2023 to 22.05.2023 up to 5.00 PM
B. Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference : 10.05.2023 at 11.00 AM
C. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bid : 22.05.2023 up to 5.00 PM.
D. Place of Sale & Receipt of Bid : On-Line through e-Procurement.
E. Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 23.05.2023 at 11.00 AM.
F. Place of Opening of Bid : O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
G. Further details can be seen from E-Procurment Portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"

Chief Construction Engineer, Anandpur Barrage Project, Salapada
A-58: OIPR-32180/11/0002/2324

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION SHAHPURA (BHILWARA)
File No:- Date

Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2023-24

Bids for Rate Contract for Construction Various CC& BT road Nagar Palika Area under Budget announcement Point No 94 year 2023-24 (LSG-2023-24) are invited form interested bidders upto time 9.30 date 19.04.2023 to time 18.00 date 08.05.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and PWD departmental website. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs.1028.82 Lacs.

NIB No.: PWD2324A0094
UBN No:- PWD2324WSOB00401, PWD2324WSOB00402, PWD2324WSOB00403, PWD2324WSOB00404

(Narendra Choudhary)
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn Shahpura (Bhilwara)
DIPR/C/5591 Mobile No 9983529510

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING NO.01/DB/F.114 N/2023 **Dated:19.04.2023**
LUMP SUMS FORM (Rate Tender System) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu e-tenders are invited by the Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Integrated office Complex, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Nandanam, Chennai – 35, for the following works from the registered Civil tenderers of Tamil Nadu Government Departments.

Sl No	Name of work	Apprx. Value of work in Lakh's	EMD Amount (Rs,)	EMD Drawn favour of	Solvency (Value to be produced in Lakh's)	Period of Completion
1	Modernization of Nagapattinam Fishing Harbour in Nagapattinam District	6655.00	33,37,500/-	Executive Engineer, FHP Division, Nagapattinam	250.00	24 Months

Note:
1. Tender documents will be available from 27.04.2023 onwards in the Government Website https://tntenders.gov.in and it can be downloaded at free of cost upto 26.05.2023, 3.00 P.M (As per server system clock)
2. The bidder should be registered with Tamil Nadu Public Works Department under class – IA (State level) with monetary limit of Rs. 25.00 Crores and above(or) registered with Tamil Nadu Water Resource Department under class - I (State level) with monetary limit of Rs. 75.00 Lakhs and above with e-tender using Digital Signature Certificate.
3. Bids must be submitted through online upto 26.05.2023 at 3.00 P.M (As per server system clock)
4. The bidders should have current year Renewal 2023-24 of registration.
5. Bids must be accompanied with scanned copy of EMD pertaining to the particular work as per the above table in the prescribed form drawn in favour of Executive engineer, FHP Division (As mention in the column of concerned work).
6. The original EMD and all other original / attested technical bid documents as uploaded shall be submitted to the Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Chennai on or before 26.05.2023 at 3.00P.M failing which ,the bid shall be summarily rejected.
7. The technical cover containing scanned copy of EMD and Prequalification documents as prescribed in the tender documents received through "Online" only will be opened at 3.30P.M 26.05.2023 in the office of the Chief Engineer Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Chennai.
8. The financial cover containing price bid document of qualified bidders in the prequalification only will be opened on a later date with due intimation in the website.
9. Corrigendum if any will be published only in the above website.
10. The Contractor should produce the documents for Lease/Own possession of sufficient Plants & Machineries specified in the tender documents failing which, the bid shall be summarily rejected.
11. Solvency Certificate shall be produced in accordance to the corresponding value of work assessing in the Pre-Qualification Tender Document, if not there of, the tender will be rejected.
12. Further details can be seen on Government website https://tntenders.gov.in

DIPR/2254/Tender/2023
'சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை பதிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்'

Chief Engineer,
Fishing Harbour Project Circle,
Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Chennai-35.

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2023 (OJEE-2023)

No: OJEE / 175 **NOTICE** Date: 20.04.2023

This is for information of all concerned. The OJEE 2023 will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode in three shifts per day as per given below schedule. Shift and center of examination for corresponding candidates will be indicated in their Admit Cards.

Exam Date	Shift - 1 9.00 AM - 11.00 AM	Shift - 2 12.30 PM - 2.30 PM	Shift - 3 4.30 PM - 6.30 PM
08.05.2023	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)	LE Tech (Diploma)
09.05.2023	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	MCA / M.Sc. (Comp Sc.)	M.Tech (11 Subjects) M.Arch, M.Plan, M.Pharm (1 hour), B.CAT (1 hour) (Cinematography and Sound Recording & Design)
11.05.2023	MBA	MBA	(1 Hour Duration) LE Tech (B.Sc.), B.CAT (Film Editing)
12.05.2023	B.Pharm	B.Pharm	B.Pharm
15.05.2023	LE Tech (Diploma)	(1 Hour Duration) LE Pharm, Integarated MBA	----

For download of Admit Card and for any other updates please be in touch with OJEE website (**www.ojee.nic.in**) regularly .

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE
h-01: OIPR-14020/11/0001/2324

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
PHONE NO.0145-2624748 FAX NO. 0145-2627671
No.F.()/Ar.MP/2023-2024/324-374 Dated: 14.04.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDES FOR WORKS

Following bids are invited interested bidders submit their bids online upto 24.04.2023 others particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)

NIT No.	Brief Description of Works
02/2023-24	Balance work of conversion of P&T/PSP scheme to piped scheme deu under Jal Jeevan Mission in jurisdiction of Div. Nagaur with provision of FHTCS including 12 months defect liability period after the successful completion & commissioning of the work on risk and cost. **(Estimated cost of work- Rs. 398.62 Lacs) UBN No. PHE2324WSOB00500**
03/2023-24	Balance work of conversion of P&T/PSP scheme to piped scheme karnoo under Jal Jeevan Mission in jurisdiction of Div. Nagaur with provision of FHTCS including 12 months defect liability period after the successful completion & commissioning of the work on risk and cost.**(Estimated cost of work- Rs. 469.36 Lacs) UBN No. PHE2324WSOB00502**
04/2023-24	Balance work of conversion of P&T/PSP scheme to piped scheme tankla under Jal Jeevan Mission in jurisdiction of Div. Nagaur with provision of FHTCS including 12 months defect liability period after the successful completion & commissioning of the work on risk and cost. **(Estimated cost of work- Rs. 441.87 Lacs) UBN No. PHE2324WSOB00504**

NIB No. PHE2324AO204
PHE2324AO206

(Mukesh Goyal)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Ajmer
DIPR/C/5739

INBRIEF

Govt. asks 8 States, UTs to stay vigilant amid COVID surge

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has written to Chief Secretaries of eight States and Union Territories, asking them to be cautious about the rising COVID-19 cases in their areas and emphasising the need to be vigilant. Letters have been sent to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Haryana in the wake of an uptick in COVID cases. The Ministry has directed them to increase the number of COVID-positive samples sent for whole genomic sequence, adding that the pandemic is far from over.

Navlakha seeks address change for house arrest

Activist Gautam Navlakha, who was ordered to be kept under house arrest at a public library in Mumbai with regards to the Elgar Parishad-Maoist link case, on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking a change of address. A Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and B.V. Nagarathna was told that the place where he was under house arrest, was a public library and needed to be vacated. Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, who was appearing in another matter in the court, said he had no idea about the mentioning of the application and sought time to respond to it. The Bench said it would take up the matter for hearing next Friday. PTI

SC grants bail to 8 life convicts in Godhra train burning case

The court considered several factors to decide on their plea, including that they have spent 18 years in jail; 4 other convicts were denied bail

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The court noted that the convicts' appeals against conviction were not likely to be taken up for disposal at an early date. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed bail to eight convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case while refusing the same relief to four others.

A Bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud weighed in factors like the eight convicts having already spent over 18 years in jail and that their appeals against conviction were not likely to be taken up for disposal at an early date.

The eight are Abdul Sattar Ibrahim Gaddi, Yunus Abdul Hakk Samol, Mohd. Hanif Abdulla Moulvi, Abdul Rauf, Ibrahim Abdulrazak, Ayub Abdul Gani, Soheb Yusuf, and Suleman Ahmad. They had been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder and other cognate offences.

In the hearing, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for Gujarat, argued that the roles of the convicts were grievous. "An iron pipe was recovered from one and a *dhariya* (sickle-like object) was found with another. A third convict had purchased and stored petrol used for setting the train ablaze. The fourth one looted the passengers," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, for the bail applicants, urged the court to separate the eight from the four others, and grant them bail.

"There is a festival tomorrow," Mr. Hegde said, referring to the Id-ul-Fitr.

Senior advocate S. Nagamuthu, appearing for the four applicants, said there were much to argue in their favour.

Mr. Mehta appealed to the court to not provide them relief. "They can revive their applications after a year," he said.

Denying them bail, the court disposed of the case. The four refused bail are Anwar Mihammad Mehda, Saukat Abdulla, Mehboob Yakub and Siddik Mohammad.

Indian politicians, Ministries, celebrities lose Twitter blue ticks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Twitter Blue verification costs ₹650 per month ($8).

Multiple Union Ministries have lost their verified check mark on Twitter following the Elon Musk-owned platform's move to limit the check mark to people who pay $8 a month (₹650 in India) to retain the blue symbol on their profiles. Even the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), which regulates social media platforms in India, no longer has a blue tick.

Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister and Minister of State, respectively, for Electronics and Information Technology, continue to retain the grey check mark issued to public officials. While Union Ministries are eligible for such a check mark, it appears that Twitter has not proactively allotted them to Indian Ministries, and the Ministries themselves may not have applied for them.

The Ministries of Culture, Information & Broadcasting, Social Justice & Empowerment, and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises are some of the others that are left without any mark of verification. High-profile politicians, including Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, have also lost their check marks.

Celebrities like Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan also lost their check marks, even as some fan accounts appeared to have been verified with Twitter Blue, the subscription service that is now the only way for private individuals to be verified. Mr. Bachchan took to Twitter, for the 4,623rd time by his count, to protest.

"Brother Twitter," he posted, in a folksy dialect. "Are you listening? I've even paid the money now... so please restore that blue water lily checkmark in front of my name, so that everybody knows that this really is me – Amitabh Bachchan."

Bihar govt. serves notices on PMAY-G beneficiaries

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

The Bihar government has served notices to over 2.21 lakh beneficiaries for not completing their houses under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojna-Gramin.

The Rural Development Department has so far served notices to 2,21,490 beneficiaries under the PMAY-G scheme for not completing their houses even after disbursal of the entire amount in their respective accounts by the authorities. Every beneficiary under the scheme is given ₹1.20 lakh for construction.

While the department has served red notices to 94,027 beneficiaries against whom "legal action" would be taken, white notices were sent to 1,27,463 beneficiaries as "warning" for not completing the construction.

It has also initiated departmental action against 347 government employees – 309 *Aawaas Sahayak* (housing assistants) and 38 *Aawaaas Paryawekshak* (housing observers) – for not ensuring complete construction of houses in their respective rural blocks.

Upgraded X-ray machines to fast track baggage check at airports by end of year

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The aviation security watchdog, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), has ordered all major airports in the country to upgrade baggage X-ray machines by end of 2023 and mandated the use of the latest technology so that passengers will not have to remove electronic devices such as laptops, mobile phones and chargers during screening of handbags.

The move comes months after airports such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru witnessed overcrowding December when the country recorded the highest number of domestic flyers since COVID-19, and government officials found shortcomings in the security infrastructure leading to longer queues.

The BCAS has made adoption of CTX, an X-Ray Baggage Inspection System based on Computed Tomography (CT), for screening of cabin and hand baggage mandatory for all airports with more than 50 lakh annual passenger traffic, by December 31, 2023. Nearly 25 airports fall in this category.

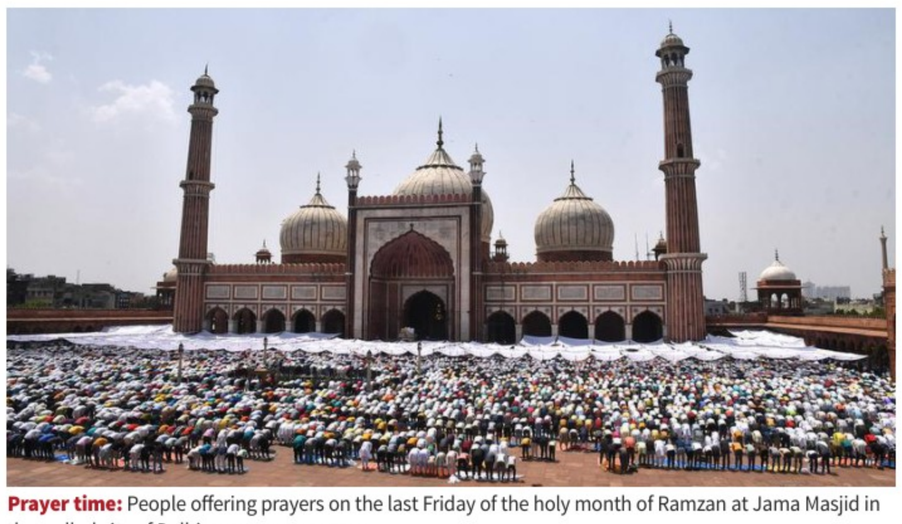
All major airports will have to install advanced X-ray machines. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

"We need the CT machines in order to upgrade security at airports. The technology it uses is superior as it can discover more prohibited items and the bonus is that it can also ensure better passenger experience because they don't have to take out their electronic devices," Director-General of BCAS Zulfiquar Hasan told *The Hindu*.

While the traditional X-ray machines currently used at airports produce a 2-D image, newer technologies such as CT produce a 3-D image with a higher resolution, and have better automated detection of explosives. These factors result in a higher baggage throughput (or flow) through the machine.

The security body has also made deployment of full body scanners mandatory at airports with more than 1 crore passengers per annum. This will do away with strip searches and invasive pat downs and enhance the capability of detecting non-metallic threat objects and drugs.

Id mubarak



Prayer time: People offering prayers on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramzan at Jama Masjid in the walled city of Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

NCP uses RTI to dig into suntroke deaths

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Friday said that they are seeking information, through the Right to Information Act, about the "actual" number of fatalities due to sunstroke at the Maharashtra Bhushan award ceremony held on April 16.

He once again demanded a judicial inquiry into the deaths despite Chief Minister Eknath Shinde appointing a one-member committee of Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Nitin Keer to look into the incident.

According to officials, 14 persons died of sunstroke during and after the event to confer Maharashtra Bhushan award to social worker Appasaheb Dharmadhikari.

Millions of olive ridleys make it to sea at Odisha beach

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Millions of baby olive ridley sea turtles crawled towards the Bay of Bengal after emerging from eggshells along Odisha's Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district, recording one of the most successful mass nesting and hatchings in past few decades.

This year, the Rushikulya beach has hosted around 6.37 lakh turtles – highest ever congregation – from February 23 to March 3. After 50 days, baby turtles have emerged from eggs themselves and started their journey towards sea. "This year, mass nesting and hatching have been smooth. There was no adverse weather condition that could have hampered the processes. On part of the forest department, we have provided best possible protection for turtles to lay eggs and prevent damage during incubation period," Sunny Khokkar, Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer, said.

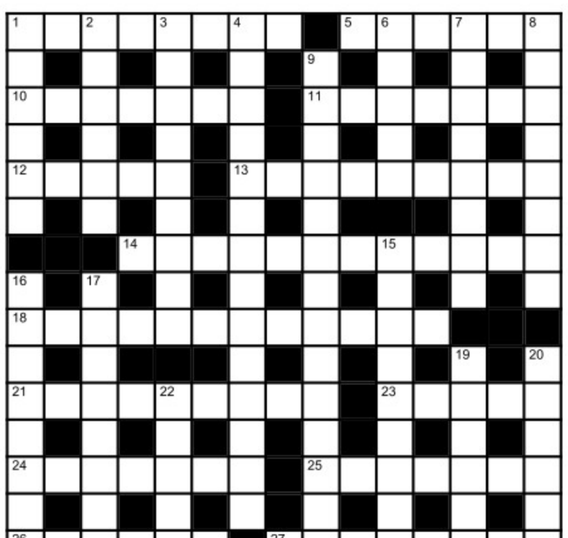
Highest congregation: Rushikulya is estimated to have hosted 6.37 lakh turtles from February 23 to March 3. BISWARANJAN ROUT

TH CROSSWORD + 13846

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Survive and fight back to live with dignity at last (6,2)
5 Picked up by electromyograph, a sickness occurring in stages (6)
10 Clash in bar, associate lost temper (7)
11 Plenty of money won by excited youth (7)
12 Keen listener secures good grade finally (5)
13 One seen on stage playing corpse in seedy den (4,5)
14 Getting married? That's what sailor might be doing (5,3,4)
18 Sleazy, wild liaison including exotic rub at America (12)
21 Tries his wife's new mutton dish (5,4)
23 A car crashed outside club in African capital (5)
24 Head of state released bird at ceremony in Brazilian municipality (7)
25 According to Spooner, chief directed Oscar award-winning movie (4,3)
26 Crone wanting a little tender meat to make Scottish dish (6)
27 Ego of one heartless narcissist in power (8)

Down

1 Cast endlessly drinking rum, getting soaked (6)
2 Consuming a bit of Viagra, go mad in sack (6)
3 Picture of light beam in doorway (9)
4 Team taking look at foremost of batsmen getting downright ordinary (5-3-6)
6 Desires ecstasy in parties (5)
7 Woman and bachelor seen cavorting in illicit taverns (8)
8 Allies of criminal with cocaine in bags (8)
9 Nervous suitor told how to enthral female? Wonderful (3,2,4,5)
15 Knowledge of dress code at uni (9)
16 Disparage attractive girl in short skirt? Quite the opposite! (8)
17 Seeking drug, primarily grass (8)
19 Seafood dish with drink, endlessly entertaining party (6)
20 Lively excursion close to quay (6)
22 Batter taking a single in Caribbean country (5)

SUDOKU

			9	1	7			
	4		6					
9			5	2			6	8
4		2		8		9	5	
	3	1				6	2	
	9	5		6		3		4
6	5			7	1			3
					6		9	
			3	5	9			

No.SS5776 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

M	T	D	A	■	E	A	P	D
U	S	E	L	E	S	S	■	M
S	■	M	■	M	■	S	B	■
E	X	P	L	O	R	E	■	R
U	■	L	■	■	■	S	■	O
M	E	E	N	A	K	S	H	I
■	■	■	■	P	■	■	■	L
K	A	N	N	A	G	I	■	S
I	■	I	■	R	■	N	■	■
N	I	G	H	T	■	D	E	V
G	■	G	■	M	■	I	■	A
C	A	L	D	E	R	A	■	I
U	■	E	■	N	■	M	■	G
P	A	R	O	T	T	A	■	A
S	■	S	■	S	■	N	I	■

A	■	E	A	■	P	■	D	■
M	A	D	U	R	A	■	I	■
B	■	O	■	U	■	S	■	■
R	E	L	E	N	T	S	■	■
S	O	■	E	■	E	■	U	■
S	H	I	■	S	A	L	N	A
L	■	C	■	L	■	D	■	■
S	E	E	P	A	G	E	■	■
■	N	■	■	N	■	■	■	■
D	E	V	O	T	E	D	L	Y
I	■	A	■	■	E	■	U	■
I	N	G	R	O	U	P	■	■
G	I	■	D	■	P	■	■	■
A	F	G	H	A	N	I	■	■
O	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	4	3	2	8	9	5	7	6
9	2	6	5	3	7	4	1	8
7	8	5	4	6	1	9	3	2
5	3	9	6	7	4	2	8	1
8	7	2	1	9	5	3	6	4
4	6	1	8	2	3	7	9	5
3	1	8	7	5	2	6	4	9
6	5	7	9	4	8	1	2	3
2	9	4	3	1	6	8	5	7

FAITH

Id: remembrance of God

Islam has two major festivals, Id-ul-Fitr (Feast of breaking the fast) and Id-al-Adha. The genesis of the word comes from the word Id (feast or assembly) in Arabic. The name Id-ul-Fitr comes from Arabic, meaning feast of breaking fast. The Prophet Muhammed (Peace be upon Him) said, "They are days of eating, drinking, and remembrance of God."

In the same spirit, the Koran mentions that, "Jesus, son of Mary, said: O Allah, Lord of us! Send down for us a table spread with food from heaven, that it may be a feast (Id) for us, for the first of us and for the last of us and a sign from You. Give us sustenance, for You are the Best of Sustainers." (Koran, 5: 114), said Syed Meeran in a lecture.

Id ends the ninth month of Ramadan, which holds great significance for Muslims as it is believed the Koran was first revealed to the Prophet through archangel Gabriel. It also ends the completion of the fast, where the faithful increase their spiritual devotions, and is meant to be a recognition of the material and spiritual favours of God to His creation. On this day, Muslims all over the world thank God for the gift of fasting, in which they avoided food, drink from dawn to dusk, out of obedience and servitude.

The many lessons in Ramadan are acted upon on this day of festivity, in order that they not be forgotten.

Feasting, another important aspect during this day is the preparation of sheer kuruma and sharing it with everyone. Id-ul-Fitr is about devotion to God and empathy towards fellow human beings.

ISLAMABAD

Pak. agency warns cable operators against airing Indian channels

AP

Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, a media watchdog, on Friday ordered cable TV operators to stop airing Indian channels, warning that strict action would be taken if they were found violating its orders. "No channel other than PEMRA licensee would be allowed for distribution on cable TV networks," it said. PTI

SAN FRANCISCO

Twitter drops 'state-affiliated' tags for several media accounts

GETTY IMAGES

Twitter has dropped "state-affiliated" and "government-funded" labels from media accounts, according to a review by AFP on Friday of many pages on the platform. Many media outlets from Western nations, Russia, China and other countries that previously had either of those tags no longer displayed them, according to AFP. AFP

JAKARTA

Indonesia's main party names Java governor as presidential candidate

REUTERS

Indonesia's largest party said on Friday it has nominated a provincial governor as its candidate for the 2024 presidential election. The selection of Central Java governor Ganjar Pranowo as the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle's candidate for the February 14 election was declared by Megawati Sukarnoputri. AFP

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE

Vowing support, U.S. and allies believe Ukraine can retake land

REUTERS

The U.S. and NATO said on Friday they were confident Ukraine could regain ground in a much-anticipated counter-offensive, as they vowed unwavering support for Kyiv at a key meeting in Germany. "I'm confident that they will now be in a position to be able to liberate even more land," the NATO chief said. AFP

Over 400 killed, 3,500 hurt in Sudan fighting, says WHO

The fighting means many families are trapped, with little or no access to electricity, terrified of running out of food, water and medicine, says UNICEF; nine children were among the dead

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

More than 400 people have been killed and over 3,500 others hurt in the fighting in Sudan, the World Health Organization said Friday.

"Four hundred and thirteen people have died and 3,551 people have been injured," WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris told reporters at a press briefing in Geneva. The UN children's agency UNICEF added that nine children were among the dead and more than 50 children had been wounded. Citing Sudanese Health Ministry, Ms. Harris said 20 health facilities had stopped functioning and another 12 were at risk of stopping.

This would affect "not only the people who have been injured during this fighting, but the people who were needing treatment before", she noted.

"It's taking a devastating toll on the country's children," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters.

He said Sudan already had one of the world's highest rates of child malnutrition, with critical life-saving care now disrupted for a 50,000 children.

Heavy firing rang out in Khartoum late on Friday after Sudan's army declared a three-day truce, a *Reuters* witness said.
(*With Reuters inputs*)

Under attack: Smoke billowing from the explosion site near Doha International Hospital in Khartoum on Friday. AP

Military wants civilian rule, says Sudan Army chief

KHARTOUM
Sudan's top general on Friday declared the military's commitment to a civilian-led government, an apparent bid for international support days after brutal fighting between Army and a paramilitary group derailed hopes for the democratic transition.

Russian force accidentally bombs own city Belgorod

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russia's military acknowledged that a bomb accidentally dropped by one of its warplanes caused a powerful blast in a Russian city not far from Ukraine's border, injuring two and scaring local residents.

Belgorod has faced regular drone attacks during the war.

The explosion late on Thursday was far more powerful than anything Belgorod residents had experienced before. It left a 20-metre-wide crater in the middle of a tree-lined boulevard flanked by apartments, damaged several cars and threw one vehicle onto a store roof. Two people were injured, and a third was later hospitalised with hypertension.

U.K. Deputy PM Raab resigns after bullying investigation

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Dominic Raab announced he was stepping down on Friday as U.K. Deputy Prime Minister after being faulted in a workplace bullying inquiry, dealing a fresh blow to the beleaguered Conservatives.

The resignation presents a headache for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who had pledged a fresh start after his predecessors' turbulent tenures, some two weeks before local elections at which the Tories are expected to lose seats.

Sunak is also battling to claw back a chasm of lost ground to the main opposition Labour party before a general election next year.

Mr. Raab, who stood in for former Prime Minister Boris Johnson as he battled COVID in 2020, had promised to quit if any claims against him were upheld.

Dominic Raab

The author Adam Tolley concluded Mr. Raab "acted in a way which was intimidating" at a meeting while Foreign Secretary and by threatening a civil servant with "unspecified disciplinary action".

At the Justice Ministry, he was at times "abrasive" but not "abusive", the report's author added. Even though he was cleared of all but two of the eight allegations against him, he blasted the conclusions of a lawyer-led inquiry launched in last November.

In a lengthy riposte in the *Daily Telegraph* he described the six-month investigation as "*Kafkaesque*" and a trial by media "fuelled by warped and fabricated accounts".

Low bar

In his letter, Mr. Raab called the two findings against him "flawed" and said they "set a dangerous precedent for the conduct of good government".

The bar for bullying was set so low, he said, that "it will encourage spurious complaints against Ministers and have a chilling effect on those driving change". Mr. Raab also resigned from his post as Justice Secretary, where he has notably had to battle a backlog in criminal cases caused by years of underfunding and disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Kin of victims march on 4th anniversary of Easter attacks

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Nearly 300 persons died and hundreds were injured in the coordinated serial blasts in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka on Friday marked the fourth anniversary of the Easter terror bombings that shook the island nation on April 21, 2019, even as families of victims marched, and many gathered outside churches, demanding truth and justice.

Nearly 300 persons died and hundreds were injured in the coordinated serial blasts, across churches in Colombo, suburban Negombo, and the eastern city of Batticaloa; and luxury hotels in Colombo. The gruesome incident, that a network of Islamist suicide bombers claimed, rocked the relative peace that Sri Lanka experienced for a decade after its bloody civil war – in which tens of thousands of Tamils were killed – ended in 2009.

Sri Lanka's Catholic Church, especially the Archbishop of Colombo Archdiocese, Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, has been raising concern over authorities' "slow-paced" investigations into the incident domestically and internationally, including at the Vatican and the UN Human Rights Council. Formerly a supporter of the Rajapaksas, the prominent Catholic priest has maintained that the Easter bombings were not merely the work of religious extremists but a "grand political conspiracy". He has called for a comprehensive international probe to help trace the "real masterminds" behind the incident.

Speaking at a commemoration ceremony in Negombo on Friday, the Cardinal reiterated his suspicion of a "political link" to the Easter bombings. Alleging that "a nexus" between the bombers and State Intelligence Service was apparent, he recalled that top officials in Sri Lanka had ignored the intelligence input from India prior to the attacks.

Sri Lanka police have arrested at least 200 suspects in connection with the case in the last four years, and charged dozens among them. However, police have shared little information or evidence in public domain that goes beyond the jihadist group identified initially.

In January this year, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ordered Maithripala Sirisena, who was President in 2019, to pay a compensation of LKR 100 million (roughly ₹2.2 crore) to victims of the terror attacks, pointing to a "reckless" intelligence failure on the part of the Executive.

On Friday, families converged at the St. Anthony's church in Colombo.

Taiwan, its supporters 'playing with fire': China FM

Associated Press
BEIJING

China's Foreign Minister warned Taiwan and its supporters on Friday that they are "playing with fire" if they go against Beijing's demand to exert control over the self-governing island democracy.

Qin Gang's remarks came at the end of a speech espousing China's contribution to the global economy and the interests of developing nations, in which he praised Communist Party Secretary General Xi Jinping's Global Security Initiative.

Toward the end of his speech in Shanghai, Mr. Qin turned to what China calls the "Taiwan problem." While China has taken a consistently hardline position on Taiwan, it has usually delegated threatening statements to spokespeople or lower-level diplomats.

UN reports 'off the charts' melting of glaciers

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The world's glaciers melted at dramatic speed last year and saving them is effectively a lost cause, the United Nations reported on Friday, as climate change indicators once again hit record highs.

The last eight years have been the warmest ever recorded, while concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide hit new peaks, the UN's World Meteorological Organization said.

The UN agency says the last eight years have been the warmest ever with concentration of green house gases hitting new peaks. AFP

"Antarctic sea ice fell to its lowest extent on record and the melting of some European glaciers was, literally, off the charts," the WMO spelled out as it launched its annual climate overview.

Sea levels are also at a record high, having risen by an average of 4.62 millimetres per year between 2013 and 2022 – double the rate it was between 1993 and 2002.

Record high temperatures were recorded in the oceans – where around 90% of the heat trapped on Earth by greenhouse gases ends up.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible.

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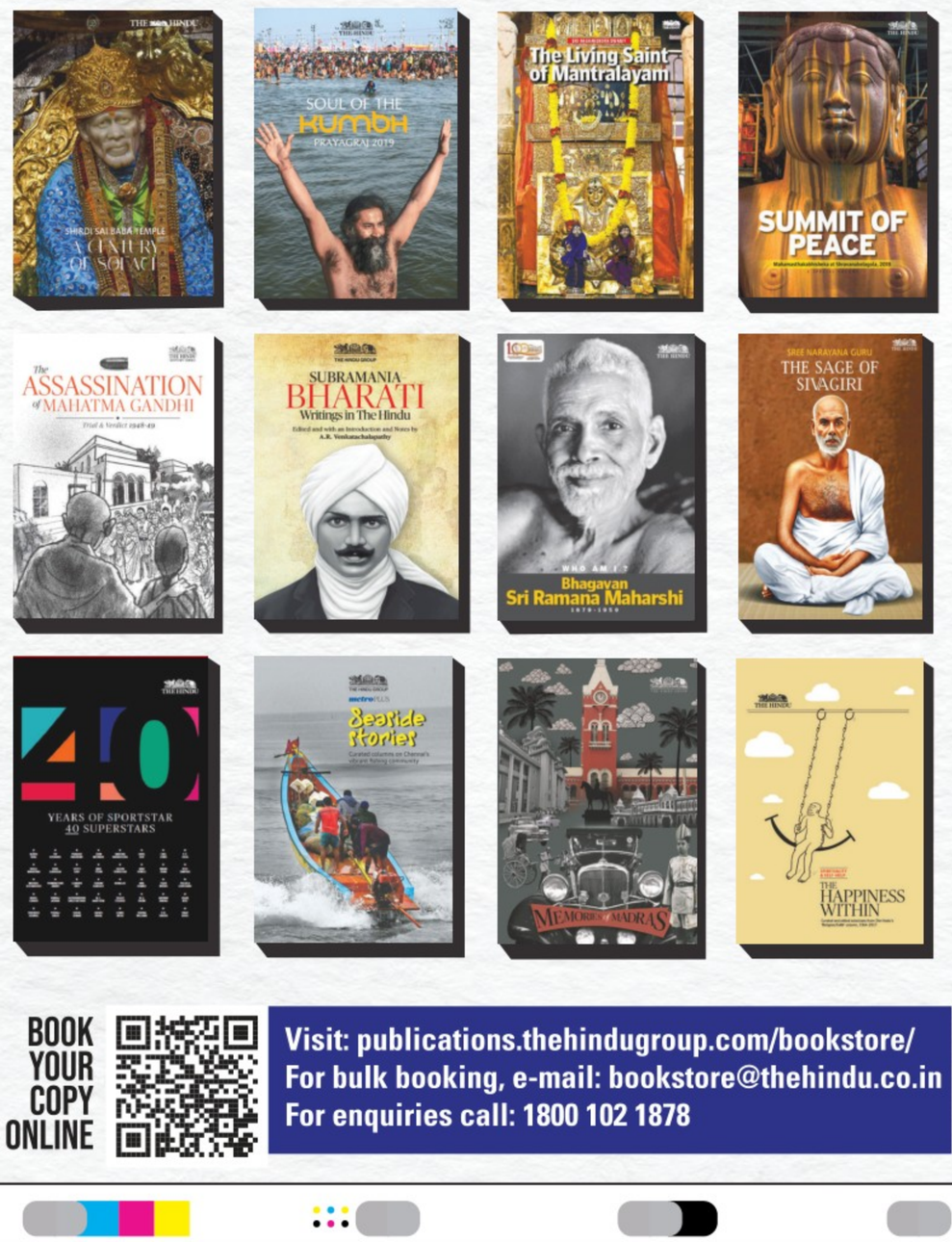

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INBRIEF

Dr. Reddy's unveils generic of hypertension injection in U.S.

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) has introduced Treprostinil injection, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of United Therapeutics Corporation's Remodulin (treprostinil) injection, in the U.S. The product is indicated for the treatment of certain kinds of pulmonary arterial hypertension and for patients who require transition from epoprostenol to reduce the rate of clinical deterioration. DRL shares closed with a gain of 0.25% at ₹4,870.10 apiece on the BSE.

Wendt Q4 net jumps 56% to ₹12.45 cr. on higher sales

Wendt India Ltd. has reported a 56% increase in standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March to ₹12.45 crore from the year-earlier period on higher sales, better product mix, continued focus on operational efficiency measures and cost control. Revenue from operations rose 25% to ₹56 crore on higher sales to major user industries such as auto, auto ancillaries, steel, bearings, and engineering, the Murugappa group firm said in a regulatory filing.

Critical to fuel MSMEs' growth to achieve $5 tn target: SAP

It is important for India to fuel the growth of 64 million MSMEs that generate more than 111 million jobs, contribute 30% to GDP and account for almost 50% of total exports, via cloud-based automation and digital transformation, a senior SAP official said. Mid-size companies are a critical enabler of the country's digital transformation that serves by generating jobs and contributing to the GDP, said Kulmeet Bawa, president and MD, SAP Indian Subcontinent.

'Demand is strong; inflation easing'

Rebound in contact-intensive services supporting demand; monetary actions, supply-side steps to slow the pace of retail inflation to 5.2% in Q4 FY24, say central bank officials in the RBI's April bulletin; nowcast Q4 2022-23 real GDP growth at 5.4%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Aggregate demand conditions remain resilient in India, notwithstanding an uncertain global outlook, supported by a rebound in contact-intensive services, RBI officials observed in the central bank's bulletin.

Expectations of a bumper rabi harvest, fiscal thrust on infrastructure, and revival in corporate investment in select sectors augur well for the economy, the RBI officials led by Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra, wrote in an article on 'State of the Economy'.

"Our index of supply-chain pressures for India continued to remain at levels below its historical average since July," they wrote. "The economic activity index (EAI), which tracks the movements of a set of 27 high-frequency indicators, indicated that overall economic activity in Q4 2022-23 may have gathered some momentum in February. Our nowcast of real GDP growth for Q4 2022-23 is placed at 5.4%."

Among the lead indicators of demand conditions, they cited e-way bill volumes and toll collections as having remained ebullient, scaling new highs in March 2023. Average electricity generation, however, moderated in March.

Vehicle sales rise

In the same month, the daily average consumption of fuel further edged up to a new peak. Retail vehicle sales, as proxied by vehicle registrations, recorded a four-month high.

Easing price pressures

Stating headline CPI inflation had gradually declined from a peak of 7.8% in April 2022 to 5.7% in March 2023 in response to monetary-policy actions and supply-side measures, they said CPI inflation was projected to ease further to 5.2% in Q4 2023-24.

Tax revenue recorded a growth of 12%. Direct and indirect taxes grew 15.9% and 8.1% y-o-y respectively. Merchandise exports grew by 3.7% month-on-month reaching $38.4 billion.

Upbeat signals

Aggregate demand conditions remain resilient in India, supported by a rebound in contact-intensive services, note RBI officials

- Cite hopes of a bumper rabi harvest, fiscal thrust on infrastructure and revival in corporate investment as positive signs
- E-way bill, toll collections scaled new peaks while retail vehicle sales hit a 4-month high
- CPI inflation slowed to 5.7% in response to monetary-policy actions, supply-side measures

RIL's Q4 net surges 18% to ₹21,327 cr. on digital, retail

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit surged 18.3% year-on-year to ₹21,327 crore on better performance of digital and retail businesses.

Revenue grew 2.8% to ₹2,39,082 crore.

While Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) reported 15.6% y-o-y quarterly profit growth at ₹4,984 crore, Reliance Retail reported a consolidated net profit of ₹2,415 crore, an increase of 12.9%.

For the financial year ended March 31, RIL reported a net profit of ₹74,088 crore, up 14% pre-exceptional item and up 9.2% after including an exceptional gain in FY22.

RIL revenue up 23%

Consolidated revenue grew 23% to ₹9,76,524 crore year-on-year. While consumer businesses EBITDA grew 30% y-o-y to ₹68,260 crore, digital services segment EBITDA crossed the ₹50,000-crore mark. Reliance Retail revenue grew 30% y-o-y to ₹2,60,427 crore; EBITDA rose 45% y-o-y to ₹17,974 crore with 70 bps margin improvement.

Digital services revenue grew 20% to ₹1,19,785 crore; EBITDA rose 25% y-o-y to ₹50,286 crore.

Annualised revenue run rate for Jio Platforms crossed ₹1 lakh crore with revenue of ₹25,465 crore in Q4 FY23.

JPL's revenue and EBITDA in Q4 FY23 continued to show strong 14% and 17% y-o-y growth, respectively.

During FY23, Jio added more than 29 million subscribers, RIL said.

New customs interface 'moving to normalcy,' says CBIC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has claimed the new customs duty payment system, riddled with technical glitches since its introduction on April 1, "is moving towards normalcy" with more than 27% duty payments done via the platform on Thursday, even as users continue to flag its erratic functioning.

On April 6, the CBIC had conceded 'difficulties' were being faced by industry in making duty payments over the automated system. In a series of tweets late Thursday, the CBIC claimed that the ECL (electronic cash ledger) is moving towards normalcy and receiving more acceptance among users.

"The progress towards normalcy, supported by data, is as below: Users have done a total of ₹1,200 crore customs duty payments using ECL today. 18,064 e-wallets have been activated since the launch of ECL on April 01, [and] today, 27.78% of challan payments were made through ECL rather than Netbanking or NEFT/RTGS."

'Innovative economy needs choices to process data'

Yatti Soni
BENGALURU

"We want all innovators and start-ups to have a choice in accessing the best technology and pricing on storage and, thus, we have changed the data localisation provision in the latest version of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill," Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar told *businessline*.

An innovative economy requires multiple choices on where to process its data, and what cloud offering to use, he said, adding that, thus, the government does not want a situation where it mandates all innovators and start-ups to only use data centres in India.

'No hardcore condition'

Speaking at a 'Breakfast with *businessline*' on Friday, Mr. Chandrasekhar said, "We want to create a framework for every legislation that allows it to evolve and we certainly will not impose hardcore data localisation as a condition."

In the latest version of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022, the Centre has allowed the transfer of personal data to countries it notifies. This was a departure from the Bill's previous version which had special localisation provisions for cross-border transfer of sensitive and critical personal data.

Laying rails: Want to create a framework for legislation on data localisation to evolve, says Rajeev Chandrasekhar. BIJOY GHOSH

"If the data fiduciary says they will use a data centre that is domiciled in the U.S., Japan or Korea, that is permissible as long as the data centre respects the rights of the Indian citizen which was consented to and has been agreed to," the Minister said.

On the independence of the Data Protection Board, the Minister said the board will be independent, but will come under the scrutiny of an appeal process – to ensure efficacy, responsiveness and integrity.

He added that the judgments made by the board will be transparent and available in the public domain. Further, the board will not be made of secretaries and joint secretaries of the government, but run by independent members.

'An aberration'

On concerns over levy of angel tax on capital raised by unlisted firms from international investors, Mr. Chandrasekhar said: "We think that the angel tax is an aberration and we need more reforms.

"That is certainly something the Finance Minister is aware of," he added.

Commenting on initiatives related to skilling, the Minister said, "We want to convert this demographic dividend into not just a demographic dividend but create a talent pool to address our own ambitions and those of what the world sees in us... by 2025 to 2026, the first signs of this work will bear fruit."

Industry leaders including PhonePe CEO Sameer Nigam and 3M India's MD Ramesh Ramadurai were present at the event.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'Life insurers' first-year premium rose 17.9% to ₹3.70 lakh cr. in FY23'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life insurance companies reported an almost 18% year-on-year increase in the first-year premium to ₹3,70,543.02 crore for the fiscal ended March 31.

Private players put up a better show as they continued to challenge the market leader, the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India.

LIC posted a 16.7% increase in the premium to ₹2,31,899.17 crore, something not enough from a market share perspective as it declined to 62.6% from the previous year's 63.3%.

First-year premium of the private life insurers for FY23 at ₹1,38,643.85 crore was an increase of 20%, while their market share improved to 37.4%, according to IRDAI.

In March, first-year premium of life insurers was 12.6% lower at ₹52,081.12 crore. Private life insurers' premium increased 35.1%, over March 2022, to ₹23,364.89 crore even as LIC reported a 32.1% decline to ₹28,716.23 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,655	0.03
US Dollar	82.06	0.13
Gold	60,550	0.34
Brent oil	81.81	0.77

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1803.00	-39.90
Adani Ports	661.60	-4.50
Apollo Hosp	4361.30	12.90
Asian Paints	2882.10	38.25
Axis Bank	864.20	-4.55
Bajaj Auto	4308.30	-6.05
Bajaj Finserv	1317.90	-14.20
Bajaj Finance	5937.90	25.20
Bharti Airtel	765.20	-7.10
BPCL	346.20	2.50
Britannia Ind	4327.80	71.40
Cipla	915.05	11.05
Coal India	230.05	0.50
Divis Lab	3231.65	28.55
Dr Reddys Lab	4868.75	10.55
Eicher Motors	3200.70	-46.25
Grasim Ind	1661.95	-25.50
HCL Tech	1048.95	11.45
HDFC	2759.40	16.40
HDFC Bank	1674.60	2.70
HDFC Life	513.30	-16.95
Hero MotoCorp	2459.35	10.80
Hindalco	422.35	-7.50
Hind Unilever	2497.95	5.35
ICICI Bank	885.65	-8.75
IndusInd Bank	1116.35	-9.85
Infosys	1227.35	3.95
ITC	408.25	7.95
JSW Steel	710.65	-5.15
Kotak Bank	1893.65	9.65
L&T	2215.20	-17.55
M&M	1212.75	-5.85
Maruti Suzuki	8558.45	-156.20
NestleIndia	20496.85	23.75
NTPC	169.70	0.00
ONGC	159.60	0.45
PowerGrid Corp	231.55	0.65
Reliance Ind	2349.00	2.95
SBI Life	1106.55	-22.30
State Bank	543.15	-1.65
Sun Pharma	989.45	1.70
TataConsumerProduct	700.40	-3.00
Tata Motors	471.20	-5.60
Tata Steel	106.15	-1.85
TCS	3160.85	56.05
Tech Mahindra	998.75	-23.05
Titan	2568.30	-10.95
UltraTech Cement	7358.50	-117.30
UPL	734.70	2.65
Wipro	368.05	5.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.89	82.21
Euro	89.78	90.13
British Pound	101.39	101.79
Japanese Yen (100)	61.18	61.44
Chinese Yuan	11.89	11.94
Swiss Franc	91.62	91.99
Singapore Dollar	61.33	61.58
Canadian Dollar	60.51	60.75
Malaysian Ringitt	18.45	18.53
Australian Dollar	54.78	55.00

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Sathiyan overpowers Sharath to take honours; gritty Reeth turns the tables on Yashaswini

TABLE TENNIS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

For the second time in three days, G. Sathiyan defeated Sharath Kamal in five sets and claimed his first men's singles title in the Petroleum inter-unit table tennis tournament here on Friday.

In the women's final, that went the distance, Reeth Rishya battled from a 1-3 deficit against Yashaswini Ghorpade to reel off the last three game for her second title.

Sathiyan faced an improved version of Sharath within 48 hours of his 4-1 victory in men's team final. But overall, Sharath's lack of sharpness was all too evident in his shot-making.

Best on show: Singles champions Reeth, second from left, and Sathiyan with runners-up Yashaswini, left, and Sharath. RAKESH RAO

Even before Sharath could settle down, Sathiyan pocketed the first game. But in the second, Sharath looked like drawing level before Sathiyan sneaked ahead to lead 2-0. The third saw Sharath check his unforced errors and dominate. This also raised visions of the match going the distance. But that was not to be.

In the fifth, Sharath fought back from 7-9 to hold a set-point at 10-9 before Sathiyan again changed gears and made it 10-all with a powerful finish. In the extended points, Sathiyan forced two successive errors from Sharath to claim the title.

In the women's final, Yashaswini appeared to sign off her unbeaten run with another crown after leading 3-1. But, Reeth found her rhythm and raced away with the last three games.

The results:

Men: Final: G. Sathiyan (ONGC) bt Sharath Kamal (IOC) 11-5, 11-9, 5-11, 11-8, 12-10. **Third place:** Ankur Bhatacharya (OIL) bt Sourav Saha (ONGC) 8-11, 11-8, 11-3, 12-10, 11-6. **Women: Final:** Reeth Rishya (IOC) bt Yashawini Ghorpade (OIL) 9-11, 11-4, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-4, 11-7. **Third place:** Divya Deshpande (ONGC) bt Jennifer Varghese (IOC) 11-4, 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 11-6.

Bengaluru FC puts it across Jamshedpur FC, books a berth in the title decider

SUPER CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Bengaluru FC booked its second ticket to a major final in as many months, defeating Jamshedpur FC 2-0 on Friday night.

The first semifinal of the Super Cup was one of those games of two distinct halves, Bengaluru winning the half that really mattered.

Safe hands: BFC custodian Gurpreet Sandhu brought off some splendid saves and was declared player-of-the-match. K. RAGESH

Showing intent

Jamshedpur looked the better side in the first half, showing much more intent to press forward, but it failed to convert the chances that came its way.

After the interval, Bengaluru played a lot better and attacked more vigorously. Coach Simon Gray's decision to bring in Sivasakthi Narayanan in the second half helped, too.

It was Sivaskathi who paved the way for Bengaluru's first goal.

His cross, following a swift move down the right, was headed in by Jayesh Rane, who himself had come in as a substitute in the first half after Javi Hernandez limped off the field in obvious pain.

In that opening half, Jamshedpur could have scored a couple of times. Its strikers should have done better, but credit should also be given to the Bengaluru custodian Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, who brought off some splendid saves and was named the player-of-the-match.

Chhetri scores

The game was sealed, with seven minutes remaining, by Sunil Chhetri, who slotted the ball home after a Roy Krishna header.

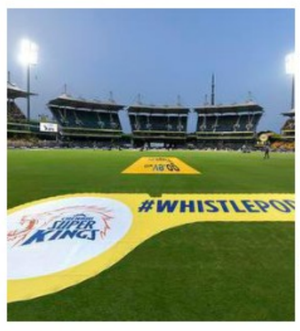
In the final, to be played here on April 25, Bengaluru, the ISL finalist, will take on the winner of Saturday's semifinal at Manjeri between NorthEast United and Odisha FC.

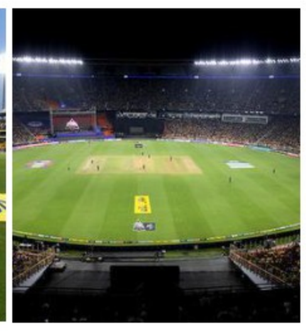
The result:

BFC 2 (Jayesh Rane 67, Sunil Chhetri 83) bt JFC 0.

THE PLAYOFFS

Chennai to host Q1, Eliminator; Ahmedabad gets Q2 and final





The M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai will host Qualifier 1 (May 23) and Eliminator (May 24), the IPL said in its advisory while releasing the schedule for the playoffs. The Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad will host Qualifier 2 (May 26) and the final (May 28). The league phase concludes on May 21.

CHENNAI'S PRIDE

Dhoni's big gloves and big presence behind the stumps

When Dhoni took Aiden Markram's catch off Maheesh Theekshana, he crossed 150 dismissals as the Chennai Super Kings wicketkeeper. It was his 151st overall, and 50th at Chepauk. He went on to stump Mayank Agarwal off Ravindra Jadeja and take his tally to 152 (119 catches, 33 stumpings). His Chepauk tally is 51 (33, 18).

SIGH OF RELIEF

Stolen cricket gear recovered, culprits found: skipper Warner

Delhi Capitals skipper David Warner confirmed on Friday that most of the cricket gear, which had been stole in transit from Bengaluru to Delhi a few days back, had been recovered and the culprits found. "They found the culprits. A few (bats) missing still, but thank you," he posted on social media.

JOFRA'S PHILOSOPHY

Just want to focus on feeling good at the moment, says Archer

Jofra Archer revealed that he has been "trying to put himself in the best position possible" to hasten his return to the Mumbai Indians playing XI. "To be honest, I still want to bowl fast... when you feel good, you bowl good. I just want to focus on feeling good at the moment," Archer was quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo.*

After the spinners set it up, Conway seals CSK's chase

Jadeja and Theekshana choke the batters as Sunrisers finishes with 134 for seven; only opener Abhishek puts up a decent score; the Kiwi's unbeaten 57-ball 77 takes Dhoni's men home in style

IPL-16

Ayan Acharya
CHENNAI

Those hoping for twists and turns akin to an Alfred Hitchcock novel would have been disappointed with Sunrisers Hyderabad's seven-wicket defeat against Chennai Super Kings in an IPL 2023 match at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Friday.

Ravindra Jadeja's three for 22 set up a Super Kings victory that was bookended by some coruscating strokeplay.

Vital contributions: After skipper Dhoni excelled behind the stumps with a catch and a stumping, Conway led the reply with a knock that contained a dozen fours and a six. R. RAGU

Sizzling start

Defending a modest 134, the Sunrisers bowlers could not muster any venom as Ruturaj Gaikwad and Devon Conway raced to 60 after the first six overs.

Egged on by the ear-splitting hoots, whistles and cheers, Conway hit four fours and a six in Marco Jansen's third over to shrink the target in no time. The Kiwi's unbeaten 57-ball 77 eventually condemned SRH to its fourth reverse of the season.

Spin challenge

Earlier, after the Super Kings elected to bowl, Aiden Markram's men faced a typical spin challenge. Left-hander Abhishek Sharma opened for Sunrisers instead of Mayank Agarwal in an attempt to shield Harry Brook in case the host bowled more spin up front. CSK, on the other hand, began with left-arm quick Akash Singh and seamer Tushar Deshpande who sought to bowl back of a length to exploit the longer square boundary on one side.

Dictating terms: Jadeja had the Sunrisers batters in a vice-like grip. R. RAGU

M.S. Dhoni knew Brook loved to pepper the region between cover-point and backward point when he was given room, and positioned Ruturaj there.

Falling prey

The Englishman obliged, getting caught for a 13-ball 18 off the bowling of Akash, who took one for 17 in the PowerPlay.

Maheesh Theekshana bowled the sixth over and went for 10, as Abhishek demonstrated his skill against spin by mixing caution with aggression.

Abhishek hardly played a false shot until he botched an attempted pull and was taken by Ajinkya Rahane off Jadeja to leave Sunrisers at 76 for two in 10 overs.

It was all downhill from there. After making only small contributions, Rahul Tripathi, Markram and Mayank, who batted at No. 6, fell in three consecutive overs as Dhoni orchestrated a spin-choke on the tricky Chepauk track.

In a bind

The three Super Kings spinners – Theekshana, Moeen and Jadeja – conceded just 67 runs between them in 10 overs and took four wickets as the Sunrisers batters ran out of steam.

Points Table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	6	4	2	8	1.043
Lucknow Super Giants	6	4	2	8	0.709
Chennai Super Kings	6	4	2	8	0.355
Gujarat Titans	5	3	2	6	0.192
Royal Challengers Bangalore	6	3	3	6	-0.068
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	6	-0.164
Punjab Kings	6	3	3	6	-0.298
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	2	4	4	0.214
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	2	4	4	-0.794
Delhi Capitals	6	1	5	2	-1.183

After the CSK-SRH match on April 21

Next assignment

CSK: April 23 vs. **KKR**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: April 24 vs. **DC**
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Harry Brook c Ruturaj b Akash 18 *(13b, 3x4)*, Abhishek Sharma c Rahane b Jadeja 34 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rahul Tripathi c Akash b Jadeja 21 *(21b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Aiden Markram c Dhoni b Theekshana 12 *(12b, 1x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Ruturaj b Pathirana 17 *(16b, 1x4)*, Mayank Agarwal st. Dhoni b Jadeja 2 *(4b)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 17 *(22b, 1x4)*, Washington Sundar run out 9 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-2): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 134.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-35 (Brook, 4.2 overs), 2-71 (Abhishek, 9.2), 3-84 (Tripathi, 11.2), 4-90 (Markram, 12.5), 5-95 (Mayank, 13.5), 6-116 (Klaasen, 17.3), 7-134 (Washington, 19.6).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING
Akash 3-0-17-1, Deshpande 3-0-26-0, Theekshana 4-0-27-1, Moeen 2-0-18-0, Jadeja 4-0-22-3, Pathirana 4-0-22-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
Ruturaj Gaikwad run out 35 *(30b, 2x4)*, Devon Conway (not out) 77 *(57b, 12x4, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Markram b Markande 9 *(10b)*, Ambati Rayudu **(Impact Player in place of Akash)** b Markande 9 *(9b, 1x4)*, Moeen Ali (not out) 6 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 18.4 overs): 138.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-87 (Ruturaj, 10.6), 2-110 (Rahane, 14.4), 3-122 (Rayudu, 16.6).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 2-0-10-0, Jansen 3-0-37-0, Markram 1-0-11-0, Washington 2.4-0-16-0, Markande 4-0-23-2, Umran 3-0-18-0, Dagar **(Impact Player in place of Tripathi)** 3-0-21-0.

Toss: CSK; **PoM:** Jadeja.
Super Kings won by seven wickets with eight balls to spare.

Super Giants will look to make use of home conditions against Titans

S. Dipak Ragav
LUCKNOW

Lucknow Super Giants will look to build on the momentum when it takes on defending champion Gujarat Titans at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Saturday.

Super Giants – currently second in the standings – posted a crucial 10-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur in its previous match earlier in the week.

The victory also put LSG level with the Royals on eight points after four wins and is only behind last year's finalist on net run-rate.

Home conditions

The K.L. Rahul-led side will look to make the most of the home conditions against a misfiring Titans.

LSG won its first two games here before going down to Punjab Kings last week and will look to get back to winning ways in front of its fans.

The Super Giants team looks well settled with Kyle Mayers, Nicholas Pooran and Rahul among the runs, while the bowlers have shared the load effectively.

On the other hand, the Titans started the season well, but have lost two of their last three matches.

Bowlers need to fire

Though the batting has looked solid, the team's losses have come while defending good totals, and skipper Hardik Pandya would want his bowlers to pull up their socks.

A win here could put the reigning champion back on track at the top of the table.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Lucknow, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 2
LSG 0 | GT 2
PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by 62 runs, 2022

Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 29
MI 15 | PBKS 14
PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by 12 runs, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

A win could put the reigning champion back on track at the top of the table

Race for the caps

ORANGE CAP

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
du Plessis (RCB)	6	343	84	166.50	0/4
Warner (DC)	6	285	65	120.76	0/4
Kohli (RCB)	6	279	82*	142.34	0/4
Conway (CSK)	6	258	83	144.13	0/3

PURPLE CAP

	Inns	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W/5W
Siraj (RCB)	6	12	4/21	6.70	1/0
Wood (LSG)	4	11	5/14	8.12	0/1
Rashid Khan (GT)	5	11	3/31	8.30	0/0
Chahal (RR)	6	11	4/17	8.25	1/0

After the CSK-SRH match on April 21

Injury worries for both MI and PBKS; Archer likely to play

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Even before the tournament began, player injuries had been the talk of the IPL entourage. The chatter has just got louder as the tournament has progressed. As a result, as much as trying to break away from the mid-table muddle, both Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings are fretting over the fitness of its key players.

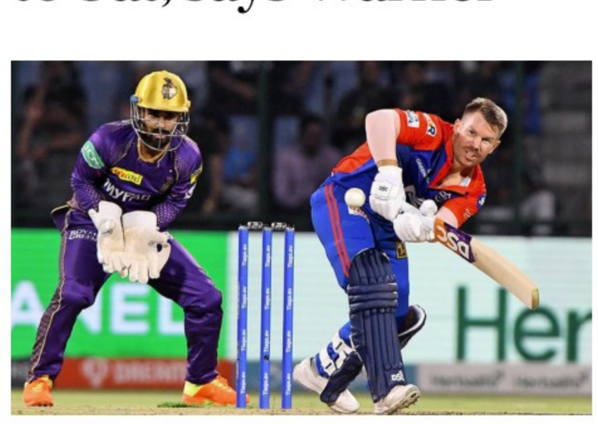
Pace spearhead Jofra Archer, having featured in a solitary game for his new franchise before being sidelined by an elbow flare-up, is likely to make his maiden appearance in MI jersey at its home ground.

Punjab Kings, however, may miss captain Shikhar Dhawan's services yet again, with Sam Curran set to lead the team. While the franchise is desperate to field Dhawan at least as an Impact Player – just like two other teams have done with their respective captains so far in the tournament – Dhawan is likely to take another week to fully recover from his sore shoulder.

Dhawan's absence will make Punjab Kings more wobbly, having lost three of its last four matches. Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, will continue to extend its three-match winning streak after starting off with two losses.

MI will also be hoping for Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan, the high-profile opening combination, to make a substantial contribution with the willow.

I can't tell people how to bat, says Warner



Not ideal: Though Warner has been in good nick, he has hardly got support at the other end. R.V. MOORTHY

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

David Warner is clearly overworked. He is leading a side low on morale, does his best as a batter but the lack of support from the other frontline batters has put the team at the bottom of the pile.

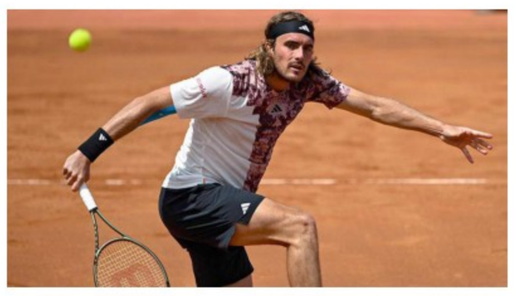
A victory over Kolkata Knight Riders on Thursday brought a smile on Warner's face but he knows that unless the others play to potential, it will be an uphill task.

"If you are going to face guys who bowl at 150kmph, you need to have the technique and method to score. If they keep coming at you and bowl into your ribcage, you have to find a way to score.

"You have to back your skills. I can't tell people how to bat. You have to actually work it out," said Warner, referring to his top-order batters.

Asked about some batters consistently falling to the short ball, Warner said: "It's a reaction skill. You have to remember that the bowlers are going to bowl only one short ball in this format and that's a good thing for the batter."

INBRIEF



Tsitsipas sweeps into the Barcelona Open semifinals

Stefanos Tsitsipas eased into the last four, beating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-2, in the Barcelona Open on Friday. The second seed will play Lorenzo Musetti, who got a walkover from Jannik Sinner.

Pakistan, NZ T20I abandoned as hailstorm hits Rawalpindi

A hailstorm ended the fourth T20I in Rawalpindi after New Zealand's Mark Chapman and Chad Bowes hit aggressive half-centuries against Pakistan on Thursday. New Zealand, put in, was 164 for five in 18.5 overs against Pakistan when rain stopped play, which turned into a hailstorm and match officials decided to abandon the match.

The scores: New Zealand 164/5 in 18.5 overs (Mark Chapman 71 n.o., Chad Bowes 54, Imad Wasim 3/19).
Toss: Pakistan. Match abandoned.
Pakistan leads series 2-1.

Ninth game in World chess championship drawn

The ninth game of the World chess championship in Astana, Kazakhstan, between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren ended in a draw after 82 moves and the stalemate left Nepomniachtchi leading 5-4.

Kerala women post win in Fed Cup volleyball

Kerala defeated Rajasthan 25-12, 25-16, 25-15 in a women's match of the 36th Federation Cup volleyball championships in Karaikal on Friday. In other contests, West Bengal women beat Puducherry 25-18, 25-4, 15-11 and the Services men overcame Puducherry 23-25, 25-23, 25-22, 25-20.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday).
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday).
Super Cup football: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 7 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 10 p.m.

Sevilla outplays United, moves into semifinal

En-Nesyri nets twice as ten Hag's side repeatedly shoots itself in the foot again, having scored two own goals in the first leg

Agence France Presse
SEVILLE

Manchester United crashed out of the Europa League in shambolic fashion on Thursday with Sevilla defeating it 3-0, to reach the semifinal 5-2 on aggregate.

The record six-time winner thoroughly outplayed Erik ten Hag's side, which repeatedly shot itself in the foot again, having scored two own goals in the first leg.

Harry Maguire, guilty of one of those calamitous moments, endured another as he gave the ball away on the edge of his own area and Youssef En-Nesyri pounced to break the deadlock early on.

Loic Bade headed home the second from a corner in the first minute of the second-half, with Jose Luis Mendilibar's side meriting the advantage, which it defended adroitly.

Star player: En-Nesyri was in thick of the things for Sevilla. REUTERS

En-Nesyri rolled home his second goal into an empty net after United goalkeeper David de Gea put the ball on a plate for him with a mishit clearance while outside his area.

With the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan rocking, Sevilla threw itself into the game with great intensity and was swiftly rewarded by Maguire.

Maguire rolled the ball back to goalkeeper de Gea and called to receive it again from the Spanish custodian, seemingly nonplussed about the three Sevilla players buzzing around him.

As Maguire tried to pass the ball, former Tottenham winger Erik Lamela intercepted it and En-Nesyri took charge of the situation and stroked it past de Gea at his near post.

Sevilla thought it had netted a second goal when Lucas Ocampos rammed home to ignite the Pizjuan again but VAR showed a tight offside against Marcos Acuna in the build-up.

Casemiro deflected an Ivan Rakitic drive over the bar late in the first half as the host pushed to double the advantage.

Ten Hag threw on Shaw and Rashford at the break, the latter with licence to get in behind Sevilla's 37-year-old defender Jesus Navas.

However Sevilla started the second half just as it ended the first, on the front foot, and Bade immediately steered home a looping header from Rakitic's corner.

Sevilla killed the game with 10 minutes remaining when de Gea ran out of his box and mishit an attempted clearance, and Morocco international En-Nesyri took full advantage to stroke home.

The results (quarterfinals, second leg):
Sevilla 3 (En-Nesyri 8 & 81, Bade 47) bt Manchester United 0. (Sevilla won 5-2 on aggregate).
Sporting 1 (Edwards 20-pen) drew with Juventus 1 (Rabiot 9). (Juventus won 2-1 on aggregate).
Union Saint-Gilloise 1 (Terho 65) lost to Leverkusen 4 (Diaby 2, Bakker 38, Frimpong 60, Hlozek 79). (Leverkusen won 5-2 on aggregate).
Roma 4 (Spinazzola 60, Dybala 89, Shaarawy 101, Pellegrini 108) bt Feyenoord 1 (Paixao 80) in extra-time. (Roma won 4-2 on aggregate).

SNAPSHOTS

Mukerjea releases his autobiography 'Crosscourt'

KOLKATA: Legendary tennis star Jaidip Mukerjea launched his autobiography *Crosscourt* at a function, attended by some of the stalwarts of Indian tennis like Ramesh Krishnan and Somdev Devvarman, here on Friday.

The book is a compilation of memories of a life well-lived, and gives an insight into the life of globetrotting sporting icon.

The former Davis Cup captain recounted how he helped Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi to team up and become one of the most successful pairs in world tennis.

Jyothi-Deotale duo in compound mixed final

ANTALYA (TURKEY): The second-ranked Indian compound mixed team, comprising V. Jyothi Surekha and Ojas Deotale, performed creditably to reach the final the Archery World Cup Stage-1 in Antalya, Turkey, on Friday.

The 21-year-old recurve archer B. Dhiraj upset some seasoned rivals to enter the men's individual semifinals.

Having booked a berth in the women's individual semifinals, Jyothi combined with Deotale to help India, which received a bye, beat Luxembourg 159-157, France 159-156 and Malaysia 157-155 to set up a summit clash with Chinese Taipei.

Dhiraj, ranked 15th, defeated Germany's Theo Carbonetti 6-0, Switzerland's Keziah Chabin 6-4 and Slovakia's Ziga Ravnikar 6-4 before stunning World and Olympic medallist and second-seeded American Brady Ellison 6-5 (10*-10) by shooting closer to the centre in the shoot-off and three-time Olympian compatriot Tarundeep Rai 6-4 in the quarterfinals.

Dhiraj will meet sixth-placed Moldovan Dan Olaru in the last-four.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sanjit hits 170 as Magadi CA thumps Raghu CA

Sanjit Sathish scored a whopping 170 as Magadi CA brushed aside Raghu CA by 264 runs in the Tiger Cup U-12 cricket tournament here on Friday.

The scores: Magadi CA 325/3 in 30 overs (Sanjit Sathish 170, T. Keshua 49, Ujwal Krishna 46) bt Raghu CA 61 in 11.3 overs (M. Akarsh 3/3).
Akshay Sports 197/6 in 30 overs (Sashang Sangeeta Rao 79, Pranav 58) bt Panthers Cricket Academy 164/7 in 30 overs (Samarth Srikant 55).

Neeraj's five-for propels RVCE's win

Neeraj's five-wicket haul (5/14) helped RVCE beat EPCET by 110 runs in the M.S. Ramaiah All India inter-engineering colleges cricket tournament here on Friday.

The scores: Acharya IT 158 in 26.4 overs (Leander 48, Venkatesh 42, Akash 3/21) bt DSCE 145/8 in 27 overs (Sri Kiran 28).
RVCE 223/7 in 25 overs (Lochan Appanna 62, Abhiram 50, Tejas 33 n.o., Adarsh Rangappa 35) bt EPCET 113 in 25 overs (Abhishek 31, Neeraj 5/14).

Archery coaching camp

The Karnataka Amateur Archery Association will conduct a summer coaching camp for boys and girls above 13 from April 24 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium. For details, contact: 080-22275656.

Vaishnav, Jagadish shine for Rising Star

Vaishnav Kumar and Jagadish scored a brace each as Rising Star HC blanked Dhyanchand HC Tumkur 9-0 in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament on Friday.

The results: Blue Star 6 (Achaiah 9, 11, R. Shreyas 25, 30, Diwan Subbaiah 15, 34) bt New Ashoka 0; Rising Star 9 (S. Harsha 6, Royan Rodrigues 9, Pavan Kumar 14, Vaishnav Kumar 16, 24, M. Sundar Raj 40, Jagadish 36, 42, John Bosco 48) bt Dhyanchand Tumkur 0.

Beagles routs GST & Customs

Achintya (27) and Krishna (24) starred for Beagles BC as it thrashed GST & Customs 92-52 in the State A-division basketball championship for men here on Friday.

The results: Bank of Baroda 96 (Anil 26, Arvind 14) bt Southern Blues 85 (Gowda 30, Ganesh 17); ASC 83 (Manikanta 25, Ravi 18) bt IBBC 60 (Suresh 20, Yeshwanth 17); Young Orions SC 74 (Sumanth 19, Gautham 15) bt Mangalore BC 59 (Rajath 16, Sai Samyam 11); Beagles BC 92 (Achintya 27, Krishna 24, Kushal 20) bt GST & Customs 52 (Hrishikesh Naidu 18, Atish 13).